

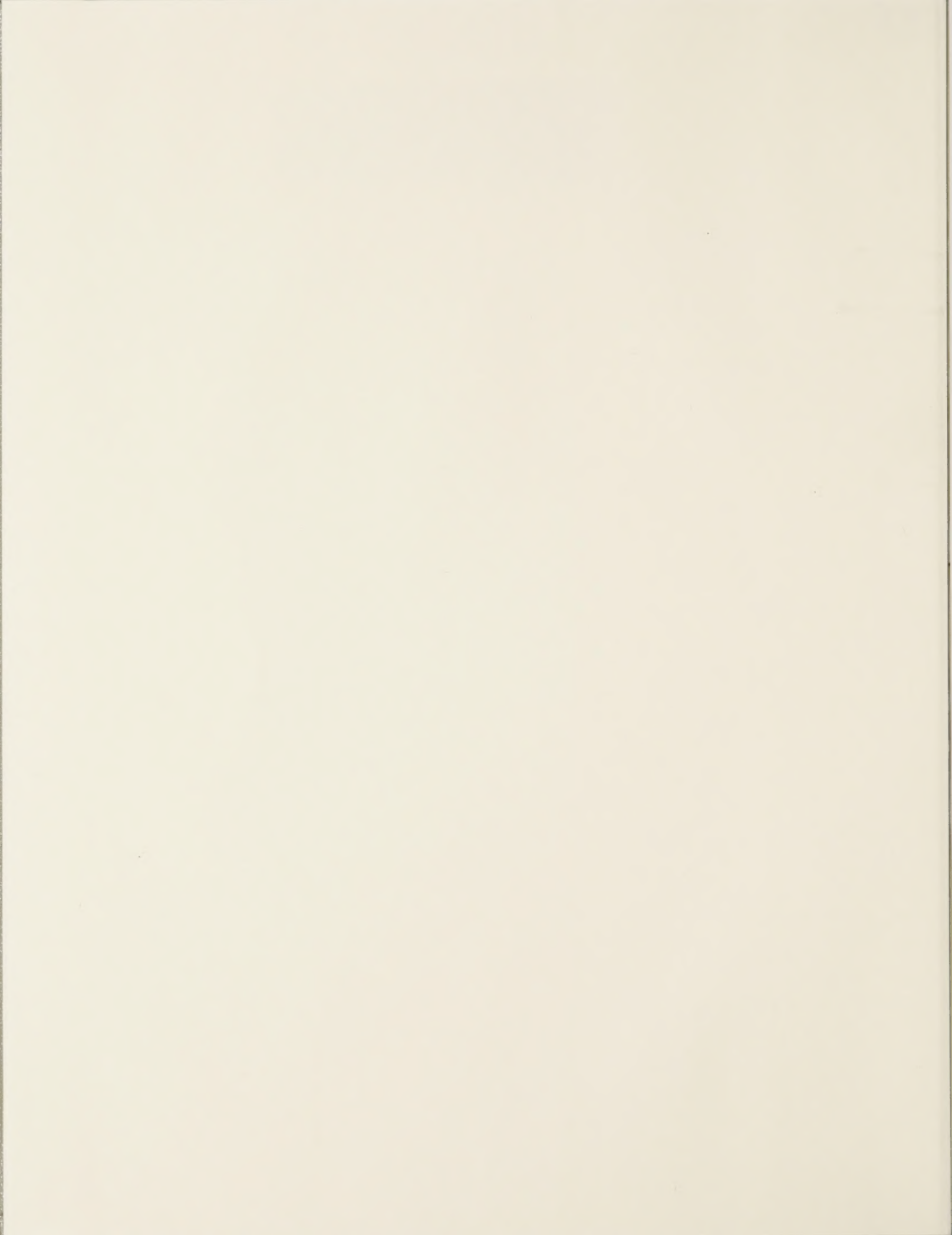
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History of Belle Rive and
Dahlgren, Illinois
and surrounding territory

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HISTORY
OF
BELLE RIVE
AND
DAHLGREN, ILLINOIS
AND
SURROUNDING TERRITORY

Prepared by
CONTINENTAL HISTORICAL BUREAU
of
Mt. Vernon, Illinois

December
1960

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HISTORY
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SURROUNDING TERRITORY
JAMES MONROE INTERNATIONAL
IN
MILWAUKEE, WIS.
1964
BY
JAMES MONROE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLISHED BY
JAMES MONROE INTERNATIONAL

Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
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Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

P R E F A C E

As the villages of Belle Rive and Dahlgren, Illinois, and the territory surrounding them have played their role in developing civilization in "Little Egypt", the purpose of this volume is to reveal a portion of the history of this area.

As will be noted by the reader, a large portion of this book is made up of biographies of people who settled the area. It is the desire of this Bureau to give credit to people who supplied biographical information of their ancestors; for this reason, we have inserted the names of such persons at the beginning of the biographies.

Great care has been given in the research of historic information for accuracy and authenticity; but due to the fact that there is a possibility that errors might have been made in information supplied us, or that typographical errors may have been made in printing, this Bureau cannot and will not assume responsibility as to the authenticity of all of the contents of this work.

Many of the places and persons who are mentioned in this history lived well over a century ago. As they were the pioneers of this area, their participation in the development of the community made it possible for the people of the Twentieth Century to enjoy the fruit of their efforts and as a result be privileged with the opportunity of possessing a higher standard of social, economic and spiritual life.

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MR. AND MRS. GOALEY HOPKINS REPORTING

James Hopkins, grandfather of Goaley, lived a short distance south of Belle Rive. One night in 1865 he was awakened by his trusty dog, and running outside saw some men with either eight or nine horses. He went back to bed but could not go to sleep; and a short time before daybreak the sheriff and a deputy from Washington County, Illinois, called at his home and inquired if he had seen any men with horses pass. He told them he had, and the sheriff ordered him to be deputized and go with them on their hunt for the horses. They started east and later that day found the horses in a wooded section close to a creek near the Hamilton-Jefferson County line. The sheriff left one deputy with the horses, and he and James Hopkins made a search for the thieves. They were unable to find the men that had stolen them, but the sheriff got the horses delivered back to their owners. The owners of the horses all lived in the same vicinity.

Mrs. Goaley Hopkins reports a strange event which occurred in the early days of the community. Her grandmother, Ann Sursa, went to the store and left her three children at home. Like many families of that day, the family had a barrel of sorghum. Before Mrs. Sursa returned home the eldest girl, Mary, climbed on top of the lid of the barrel, which was sitting close by a window, to see if her mother were in sight. The top of the barrel caved in, dropping Mary down in the barrel of sorghum. The other children were unable to pull her out of the barrel, and there she stayed till Mrs. Sursa got home. We can all imagine the job of cleaning that occupied Mrs. Sursa for quite some time after Mary was rescued from her sweet place of confinement!

CHARLES YATES REPORTING

Joseph Yates came from Hopkinsville, Kentucky, to Thierry Hill, northeast of Dahlgren, about 1820 if not before. He walked there from Hopkinsville at the age of sixteen. He hewed timber and made a log cabin for his new home. He spent all of the remainder of his life as a farmer. His life was relatively short, as he died in his early thirties. He was married to a lady named Campbell. When he died, he left five children, and his wife died about a year later. They had three girls and two boys.

Eli R. Yates, grandfather of Charles Yates and eldest son of Joseph Yates, was born in 1834. He was married to Martha Shelton of that vicinity. Eli, like his father, hewed out some timber and built a cabin for himself and his family. Eli and Martha Yates reared a family of four boys and three girls.

Isam R. Yates was born in the east part of Jefferson County, in Moores Prairie Township. His birth was on October 10, 1863. (The letter "R" was quite popular with several generations of the Yates family. The "R" stood for "Riley" and the word was used as a middle name for five straight generations. Isam Yates was the father of sixteen children by three marriages, five children dying in infancy. Isam Yates and his father Eli operated a surface coal mine near Dahlgren for twenty years. The mine was inside the boundaries of Jefferson County.

Eli Yates assisted in the construction of both the Southern and the L & N railroads. About the turn of the century, the family recalls that there was a derailment of a freight train on the L & N track about half way between Belle Rive and Dahlgren. A large number of mules were being shipped, and many of them were injured and killed; some of the mules that did not die in the wreck were so badly injured that they had to be killed shortly after the derailment occurred. A large quantity of potatoes and ham were affected and had to be sold to people in the nearby communities. A large amount of coffee was also in transit and much of it also was sold to local people.

CHARLES W. HORTON

County records show that in the year 1960 Charles W. Horton was the oldest Democratic voter in Jefferson County who has been voting continuously since he cast his first vote. His very first voting was in 1896, when he cast his vote for the well-known "Commoner", William Jennings Bryan. His voting for the past sixty-four years has all been in Jefferson County, Illinois, in either Pendleton or Moores Prairie Townships.

The Belle Rive community has been fortunate in having the honor of having had an inventor living in their midst. Mr. Horton has

catered to the work of invention for many years. Among other things that have come into being during his inventive career, he has invented and perfected an instrument that is known as "The Magic Indicator." This indicator operates in the field of personal magnetism. Testimonials from many people in different parts of the nation point out that it works excellently in locating hidden minerals that lay deposited below the surface of the earth. This indicator is very sensitive, and when used in search of various kinds of minerals, particularly metals, the performance of the instrument will indicate to the handler that he has come in contact with some kind of mineral. The inventive ability of Mr. Horton has enabled numerous people in many localities throughout the nation, when doing exploration work of mineral deposits, to avoid what would have been costly drilling and excavation pursuits. The work of Mr. Horton in perfecting a device of this kind has caused Belle Rive to be known in every state of the nation. This instrument is in constant use by men in different states to locate deposits of gas and oil. "The Magic Indicator" has been in use in other countries for some time. The wide distribution of this device has caused this vicinity to become known in foreign lands.

FRANK CHANEY REPORTING

Some land about three miles south of Belle Rive is said to be virgin soil. For some reason, it has never been cultivated. It is in the heart of Moones Prairie, not far from where the Wilbanks Stand was located.

William S. Chaney, born August 8, 1838, in Tennessee, came to Spring Garden in 1862 and operated a store. He moved to Hams Grove Corner about 1871 and operated a store there until about 1885.

Mr. Chaney left Tennessee when the Civil War began because he was in sympathy with the Union cause. He had \$300.00 in gold that he hid in the sand bolster of the wagon to keep the Rebels from finding it. He went back to Tennessee and joined the 9th Tennessee Cavalry, Company B, in 1864. We shall tell more of his Civil War adventures in a moment.

William Chaney never liked to walk, but rode everywhere he

possibly could. He first married at the age of nineteen, and had two children by his first wife. After his first wife and one child died, he married a second time to Matilda Vaughn.

While serving in the Union Army, William Chaney was in Gillan's Brigade. Quite often the Brigade was away from the other Federal troops.

Once Chaney's group rode all night in a rainstorm to a town where the Confederate general Morgan was hiding. They got there near daybreak and surrounded the place with Union troops. General Morgan started to run out of the house, when he was shot. Morgan's body was tied on a horse and taken into town to a Union officer, who was told, "Here is Morgan." The Union officer said, "To Hell with Morgan." The men thereupon dropped General Morgan's body in the mud and left it there. William Chaney was an eye witness to this scene.

When William Chaney was at Cumberland Gap, the Union men were surrounded by Rebels for three days and nights. The Union men attempted to escape. They started out in a line, and the Rebels let them get a considerable distance from their camp before the Rebels opened fire. A Union order was finally issued for every man to take care of himself. Chaney found that of all the mules that had been hitched in the area, all of them had been seized by the troops but one. He mounted this last mule and started for home, as his home was not too far from the place where this incident took place. He stopped at the home of a man who was his personal friend but who was also known to be a Rebel sympathizer. Chaney got the friend out of bed in the night and told him he was hungry. His friend said, "Bill, you can't stay here. The Rebels are camped a quarter of a mile from here." Chaney remarked, "It makes no difference. I'm hungry!" So his Rebel friend furnished him some food and sent him on his way.

Chaney, after many other amazing and amusing episodes, was discharged from service at Knoxville, Tennessee, on September 11, 1865.

William Chaney came to Belle Rive in 1871, before the rails were laid in the village, though some of the track of the new railroad had been laid in other places. He engaged in the mercantile business

for about eighteen years. The present Chaney's store in Belle Rive is on an adjoining lot of the store owned by William Chaney. He later began farming and livestock raising exclusively.

William Chaney often told of driving hogs to the St. Louis market, crossing the river on the ice. There were as yet no stockyards at East St. Louis. On one occasion he drove a bunch of turkeys to St. Louis, presumably crossing the river by boat. Before he had the store at Spring Garden, Chaney once drove a herd of cattle from East Tennessee to Central Illinois.

The Methodist Church in Belle Rive is located on land that was owned by William Chaney. This church was organized in 1884.

It is reported that whiskey could be bought from William Chaney's store for one dollar per gallon. Many families would buy a gallon or more for medical use, as this was a common practice in the area.

Chaney reported people from the northeast part of the county would come twenty miles, hauling hoop-poles to make barrels and ties that were sold to the L & N Railroad.

He reported that in his early days in the vicinity deer were in abundance, and that there was an Indian camp located a short distance north of Belle Rive. It is not known what tribe of Indians they were, and the dates of their camping there is not known.

William Chaney died on August 20, 1920, and is buried at Flint Cemetery approximately a mile north of Belle Rive.

BELLE RIVE METHODIST CHURCH

On April 21, 1884, William S. Chaney and his wife Mary M. Cheney conveyed Lots Six and Seven in Block Thirty-One in the Village of Belle Rive to Josephus Guthrie, Jesse Laird, Richard J. Eaton, Zadok C. Maulding and Thomas A. Johnson, Trustees of the Belle Rive Methodist Church and their successors in office for the use and benefit of the church, "In trust that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained and deposed of as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America; subject to the discipline, usage and ministerial appointments of said church as from time to time authorized and declared by the

General Conference of said church, and the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situated."

According to Bonnie Nell Smith, the organization of the church was in 1885. Samuel T. Laird hauled lumber to be used in construction of the buildings. Rev. Jesse Laird, father of Samuel T. Laird, had requested that his funeral be held in the new church building. The building was almost completed when he died, but was not yet equipped with seats. Temporary seats were arranged for and the funeral held as requested. Samuel T. Laird was licensed by the Methodist Church as a minister.

Following is an undated letter written a few years ago by Nellie Wall Weaver:

"The Belle Rive Methodist church originally a mile south of town at New Hope cemetery, in a log building. My grandfather, Ealiga Goodner & his family were members there. The town of Belle Rive was started & the congregation moved into town. My mother Laura Goodner Wall & aunt Mary Allen were last two members of that congregation. My mother passed away in July 1939 & Aunt Mary two or three years later. (EDITOR'S NOTE: in 1945) They met with the christian church people for a time & in the Masonic Hall some time & decided to build. About the first I remember was watching from my home, the men working on the church. They had raised the rafters but had not got braced when a windstorm blew them over & they had to be raised again. The building was inclosed when Uncle Jessie Laird died. He so much wanted his funeral preached in it they swep out the shavings got boxes & nail kegs put boards on them for seats, & carried out his wishes. I wasn't more than eight years old. The first pastor I remember was William Browder. They used chairs nail kegs & boxes with boards for seats for some time & finally raised the money & got the seats that are in use today. When they got ready to dedicate it Rev. J. B. Thompson D.D. of Salem, Ill. preached the dedication sermon Sep. 8, 1895. J. J. Hunter, P. C. That was a time of great rejoicing. There had been plenty of hardships & a lot of sacraficeing but with Gods help the battle was won. The church services had large attendance & the Sunday school was grand. Classes were so crowded there wasn't any room left. Oh how we did look forward to Sunday. As I remember the trustees at that time were Tom Johnson, Larkin Boswell, R. G. Wall, Joe Guthrie and Doug Holland"

Many of the records of the church statistics are lost or not available, especially those records during the time this church and the Oplyre Church were one charge.

The record of ministers serving the church is incomplete in that dates are not available, and they are not arranged in chronological order. They are: A. C. Snell, J. K. Hunte, J. W. Bain, P. H. Hearn, L. Smith, G. Groves, J. A. Bell, S. H. Hoon, E. F. Hicks, J. A. Martin, Newman Phillips, S. O. Sheridan, H. M. Wills, R. H. Phillips, W. E. Browning, N. D. Motzer, S. F. Clarkson, A. D. Dewhurst, Rev. Atcheson, F. J. Glotfelty, H. M. Fish, C. R. Barnett, J. A. Kennison, R. W. Linder, C. R. Wise, W. E. Shaffer, H. Hutchcraft, J. A. Taylor, Virgil Miller, Bill Swygar, Rev. Stony, O. R. Buess, W. J. Fagan, Rudolph Barnett, Russell Oden, Ronnie Bogart.

Sunday School superintendents include: C. L. McKnight, Mrs. Joe Guthrie, D. C. Holland, J. D. Hampton, R. B. Karnes, Mrs. Della Bloodworth Brown, Henry Wall, Frank Marlow, and Mrs. Earl Bechtel.

Many school activities in the past were held in this church building, among them many graduation exercises and baccalaureate services.

JOE BOYLE REPORTING

Robert B. Karn was born June 4, 1871, in Moores Prairie Township, Jefferson County, Illinois. His father was Edmond Karn and his mother was the former Amanda Lewis.

He was married on December 27, 1898, to Mae Boyle. He and Mrs. Karn lived to celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary in 1958.

Mr. Karn was a Master Mason for forty-eight years and a Thirty-Second Degree Mason. He also served faithfully as an elder in the church.

By occupation he was first a farmer, keeping ponies when he lived on the farm.

He also was a feed dealer, and operated the horse and mule barn with his brother-in-law, Joe P. Boyle, near the turn of the century and for several years after.

At the time of his death, he was a member of the Tyler Place Presbyterian Church of St. Louis.

MEREA RICHARDSON HORTON REPORTING

James Richardson, born in 1856, was married to Ellen Wilkerson.

By occupation he was a farmer, and was a deacon of the Missionary Baptist Church of Belle Rive, Illinois. He helped haul logs and build the old log Baptist Church of Belle Rive, and later in 1888 he helped build on to the church, part of which stands now.

Mr. Richardson's spare time was spent in helping others. He would cut stove wood and haul and give it to the widow women and needy in his community. Mrs. Horton states she went with him many a time to take chickens to town to help get money to pay the preacher, who never had more than a small salary those days.

James Richardson was resident around Belle Rive most of his life and raised a large family of eleven children. He made a practice of taking all of his children to church, and as children will, they would during the night services lie down in the seat and go to sleep.

One night something happened to cure the sleeping in church. Mr. Richardson often told this story in later years. As usual, one of the boys had gone to sleep in the back of the church. There were so many in the family that it was easy to lose count. On this particular night they were driving down the road by the Flint Cemetery and all at once they heard a terrible sobbing noise coming down the road behind them! At first they could not imagine what it was, but soon they realized it was the boy who had been asleep in the church. He had awakened in the dark church, broken out the window and was running down the road to try to catch up with the wagon.

James Richardson's home was always open to his friends and neighbors. His wife would stay home and prepare something to eat for the family when they returned home, because there would nearly always be a few preachers coming home with the family.

Mr. Richardson died in 1921, and Ellen Wilkerson Richardson survived him a number of years, living until 1948.

ROBERT L. ALLEN

Robert L. Allen was born January 20, 1870, in Moores Prairie Township near Sugar Camp Church in Jefferson County, Illinois. He was married to Elizabeth Learned, and to this union were born the following children: Grace, born September 2, 1892, who married William F. Robertson; Nina Gladys, born October 7, 1894, who married Nince Lancaster; an infant daughter, born dead on February 11, 1896; Ruth, born August 28, 1898, who married James Campbell; Robert Don, born March 2, 1900, who married Marcina Sikorski; Frank L., born January 20, 1903, who married Daisy Bammer; Bessie, born July 30, 1905, who married Arthur Burke, and who died on March 6, 1952; Gertrude, born May 12, 1908, who married Raymond Pace; Charles B., born August 17, 1910, who married Gladys Moore; Dorothy, born August 25, 1912, who married George Engelmann.

In early life Mr. Allen taught school in rural Jefferson County, Illinois, and did farm work. He has served in public office as a school director and as Clerk of Moores Prairie Township. He has served as Elder and formerly as Deacon with the Christian Church of Belle Rive. Mrs. Allen has been a member of the Christian Church since 1889. He has also served with the Modern Woodmen of America and has been a Mason for over half a century.

Mr. Allen circulated petitions to have a mail route established and this was approved by the postal authorities in the nation's capital. He then passed the postal examination and was assigned the position of rural carrier operating out of Belle Rive. He held this position from 1904 until his retirement in 1934. This route went through the vicinity where he was born and reared. He served under four postmasters.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen are living at present at the place where they were married. They were married at the home of Mrs. Allen's father by Reverend Edward Price, who was minister of the local Christian Church at the time of their marriage.

Mr. Allen at one time during his career of rural carrier owned a dog named "Jim" who would follow him in his horse drawn vehicle around the mail route, a distance of twenty-five miles. One

Sunday Jim made the route alone. The patrons were astonished at Jim, all alone, travelling the route, but of course he could not read the calendar.

Once one of Allen's patrons on the route wanted to send a baby to a relative of theirs that lived further out on his route. The lady asked what would be the cost of postage to send the youngster. Mr. Allen informed her that there would be no charge, and took the baby along to the relative.

Mr. Allen has voted in seventeen presidential elections.

January 20th is an important date with the Robert Allen family--it is Mr. Allen's birthday, the birthday of his son Frank, and the birthday of one of his great grandchildren. It is also the date that the President of the United States is sworn into office.

Mr. Allen has in his possession a sword that was carried by his father, Captain George W. Allen of the Forty-Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil War. The scabbard of the sword shows some dents that were caused by some lead balls. It is reported that he would have been wounded in the leg if the lead balls had not hit the scabbard of the sword. George Allen came from Allen County, Kentucky, and was born in 1833. In 1866, he was married to Belle Kniffen, who was born in 1840.

CLAUDE RICHARDSON REPORTING

Nancy Ann Rawls was born May 28, 1851, in Hamilton County, Illinois. On September 2, 1880, she was married to Rev. E. P. Richardson, who was a Missionary Baptist minister and farmer. They in their later years belonged to Olive Branch Church near Wayne City, Illinois.

One of her outstanding memories of her girlhood was that of a pet bear the family had. They got it when it was very young, and the bear certainly had a will of its own. If it was in the house, no one could get it out except Nancy's father. It loved to get in the middle of the bed. One night while her father was out hunting, the bear was determined to gain entrance into the house. Since the doors and windows were closed against him, the bear

climbed to the housetop and was planning to come down the chimney. The family, wa determined to keep the bear out as he was to get in, finally h it upon a solution. The family used the old fashioned straw bed (as many of us can remember); and some of the children carried straw to the fireplace, making so much smoke that the bear decided there were other things to do than to descend the fireplace to get into the house.

J. T. LEMPKER REPORTING

John Cochrane was born in Tennessee in 1797. When he left Tennessee and started to Illinois, he stopped at Shawneetown and worked for some time on river barges. He arrived in the Belle River area about 1818. His wife's maiden name was Turnance Robinson.

Mr. Cochrane's occupation was principally that of farming, and he homesteaded some land from the Government, one hundred sixty acres in the St. Elmo School District. His church affiliation was that of Primitive Baptist, and he belonged to the Hungry Hill Church near Bonnie, Illinois. He served his country as a soldier during the Civil War.

While a young man, he hauled merchandise from Shawneetown to Lynchburg, serving several stores along the route. He also hauled merchandise from Shawneetown to the Wilbanks Stand. He had to drive through winding paths in the timber, as there were no public roads.

He told his children in later years how they used to trap wild turkeys. They would build a pen and dig a trench into it, baiting it with corn. When the turkeys went into the trench to get the corn, they would be caught. They would never think to look at the opening, but would go round and round inside the pen looking upward. The pen could be stopped up at the opening, and the trapper could easily catch his prey this way.

Mr. Cochrane was a crack marksman with a muzzle loading rifle. His chief hobby was hunting, as he was a sturdy pioneer. He was a lifelong Democrat, insofar as his politics were concerned.

Mr. Cochrane, when he passed away, was buried on the farm where he lived. This became a small community cemetery. He died in 1899.

LENNA SMITH AND MRS. ED PAGE REPORTING

The immigrant ancestors of Theophilus Cook settled in Virginia Colony in the early years of its settlement. The exact date of arrival is not known, but court records show that William Cook, great grandfather of Theophilus, bought eight hundred acres of land in what is now Southampton County, Virginia, in 1667. After a time, about 1770, the family moved to what became Fairfield County, South Carolina, where Theophilus was born on February 22, 1788.

After the Revolutionary War (in which his father, John, served in the Second Regiment, South Carolina Infantry), members of the Cook, Caldwell and other families moved to Tennessee, where Theophilus Cook married on October 24, 1811. His bride was the former Elizabeth Caldwell, who had been born in Newberry County, South Carolina.

Theophilus served in the War of 1812 under General Jackson, and his military record shows two periods of service in this conflict.

He served in the company commanded by Captain George Smith in a regiment of mounted volunteers in General Coffee's Brigade against the Creek Indians, volunteering in Sumner County, Tennessee, in either September or October 1813. The reason the dates are indefinite is that the record was made from memory almost forty years after the actual periods of service, as the War Department did not keep service records as they did in later periods, and therefore the Theophilus Cook record was made by affidavits made out by himself and by men who knew him. He was honorably discharged from this period of service at Ditto's Landing on the Tennessee River about the last of December, 1813.

Theophilus Cook also served in the company commanded by Captain Robert Moore in the First Regiment of Mounted Volunteers commanded by Colonel Thomas Williamson. He volunteered in Sumner

County, Tennessee, in September, 1814 and was honorably discharged at Nashville, Tennessee about May 1, 1815.

Theophilus Cook was already a father at the time of his service for his country, as Sarah had been born to the family on July 28, 1812 and Feriba, another daughter, was born on January 30, 1814. On February 1, 1816, he became the father of his first son, Josiah Brown Cook.

In the winter of 1816-1817, the family moved to Jefferson County, Illinois, settling in Woones Prairie Township near where Belle Point School house now stands.

Following is a complete list of the children of Theophilus and Elizabeth (Caldwell) Cook: Sarah, born July 28, 1812, who married John Jenkins; Feriba, born January 30, 1814, who married Willis B. Holder; Josiah Brown, born February 1, 1816, who died February 17, 1845; Mary, born June 1, 1817, who married John A. Calvert; Robert Perry, born January 31, 1819, who first married Harriett J. Morgan and later married Sarah Sturman; Daniel D., born October 11, 1820, who married Nancy Parent; Johnathan S., born February 12, 1822, who married Susan Blake; Matilda, born April 3, 1824, who married Richard Kinison on July 1, 1847 (he lived in Kentucky until he was fifteen years old; then he came to Illinois and lived in the vicinity of Belle Rive the rest of his life. He farmed for a living and was a great hunter. They raised their family on a farm southeast of Belle Rive, and were the great grandparents of Mrs. Ed Page); William C., born October 3, 1825, who died December 2, 1847; Elvira, born August 16, 1827, who died February 17, 1845 (the same day that her brother Josiah died); and Margaret J., born April 21, 1830, who married Thomas Shipley.

Theophilus and Elizabeth Cook had two sons who died in the Mexican War, but the record does not indicate which two they were.

Theophilus Cook was a lay preacher (Methodist exhorter), and was highly respected by all who knew him.

He died on June 15, 1858. The Cooks are buried in New Hope Cemetery, a short distance south of Belle Rive, Illinois.

Among the descendents of Theophilus and Elizabeth Cook are and have been a number of professional people and people of some local prominence, including Rev. Cook Kinison and Federal Judge Robert Holder. Mary L. (Kinison) Orrick lived north of Fairplay School for years, and F. M. Kinison lived southeast of Fairplay all of his life. Lucretia E. (Kinison) Glenn lived the first house east of Fairplay. Many others have lived in the area.

BELLE RIVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

This church was organized in the old Missionary Baptist church building. Having built a new church, they sold the old building to Rev. Leo Walton, who held services in it for two or three years. During the time he was holding services, it was known as the "Community Church."

In April 1959, Rev. Walton sold the building to Rev. Arthur Kern to organize a Free Will Baptist Church. With nineteen charter members, Rev. Melvin Oathout, Rev. Arthur Kern and Bro. Joe Barefield organized this church, the first of its faith to be in Belle Rive. The first trustees were Bro. Joe Barefield, Everett Ritchison and Zygmunt Kawinski. Two new deacons were ordained, Earl Bullock and Morris Jones. Joe Barefield was already a deacon of like faith. Modine Kern was the first clerk. Eld. Jovie Hanna was the first pastor. Sherry Frances Scott, daughter of Melvin and Frances Scott, was the first baby to be born to a family belonging to this church.

Bro. Joe Barefield has been called home by God. The church misses him but knows he has gone to a better place.

-- Modine Kern

THE WILBANKS STAND

The Wilbanks Stand was a country store located in Moones Prairie Township and operated by Quincy A. Wilbanks. The store was established in 1848.

Quincy Wilbanks was reared a short distance from where he located his store. Quincy's father was a native of South Carolina,

but later in life moved to St. Clair County, Illinois. After living in Illinois for some time, he decided to return to his native state, where he remained until his death. The dates of his coming to the Prairie State and of his returning to South Carolina are not available, nor do we know the date of his death.

Quincy Wilbanks did not return to South Carolina with his father, but remained in Illinois and made his home for a number of years with his brother Daniel. Daniel Wilbanks was one of the founders of Sugar Camp Baptist Church, which is located about a mile from where the Wilbanks Stand was located.

Quincy Wilbanks served in the armed forces during the Mexican War. We do not have available the dates of his entry or discharge from service, nor do we have his rank or the name of the organization with which he served.

Sometime after Quincy Wilbanks had reached manhood, as stated above, he decided to enter the mercantile business. At the time he began his business career there were no railroads in his part of the country. As far as we have been able to learn, his closest competitors were at Spring Garden a few miles to the west and at Lovilla, a thriving village several miles to the east of the Wilbanks Stand and located in the west edge of Hamilton County.

As the Wilbanks Stand was the only place for local marketing for several miles in each direction, it was only natural that he built a business of rather large volume. Like most other stores of that era, his store sold most of the items that were used in everyday life in rural communities. It is reported that Quincy Wilbanks sold the first fireworks that were ever sold in that area. As horses were not accustomed to hearing firecrackers and other fireworks shot around them, it was advisable to keep the animals tied out in the woods quite a distance from the store for fear of their becoming panicked. On one occasion a man refused to listen to the advice about tying his horse some distance from the store, and some one shot some fireworks close to this man's horse. The horse was so frightened that it jumped in its own wagon and refused for quite some time to come down. Imagine the difficulty of getting a

terrified horse back to the ground and ready to go home.

We have been informed that a post office was located at the Wilbanks Stand and was officially named "Moones Prairie, Illinois." This was before Congress enacted the legislation that provided for the rural free delivery system, and people for several miles around came to the Stand to get their mail.

A fraternal organization was formed at this place and held meetings for a number of years. We are unable to determine what fraternity this was. After the Civil War had come to an end, the men who were living in the vicinity who had served in the Union Army organized a post of the "Grand Army of the Republic" and held regular post meetings at the Wilbanks Stand for a number of years. Their meetings were held in the hall that was used by the local lodge.

There were countless acres of virgin timber in the vicinity where Quincy Wilbanks operated his store, and this timber provided a haven for furbearing animals. The men hunted these animals for two or three reasons--it was great sport, the meat was good to eat, and the sale of the fur provided them with some additional income to supplement the other income derived from their farms. It was only natural that Wilbanks should provide a market for the pelts, as both he and his customers could benefit thereby.

Quincy Wilbanks also bought eggs and poultry from the local people. The marketing of cream had not come into being at the time that he operated his country store on the "Old Goshen Road" and therefore his buying of farm products was usually limited to the purchase of poultry, eggs and furs.

We have not been able to learn the different kinds of pelts that were marketed at Quincy's store, but as opossum, raccoon, muskrat and many other kinds of furbearing animals were plentiful in the area, it only stands to reason that he furnished a market for all of them.

Many interesting things happened in the community during the period of about twenty years that Quincy operated his "Wilbanks Stand," and if history could speak audibly it could tell of many

exciting happenings in the southeast part of Jefferson County.

About five years after the Civil War had been closed, the people of Jefferson and surrounding counties learned that a railroad was to be built from Evansville, Indiana to St. Louis, Missouri. This was wonderful news to every one and was hailed with much rejoicing. A little later, news was received that a town was to be built a few miles west of the Jefferson-Hamilton county line. This new town was to take the official name of Belle Rive.

After Quincy Wilbanks learned that a town was to be built with rail connections a few miles north of his country store, he decided to move his business to the new town, so he too could have the services of the railroad. Thus ended the existence of the Wilbanks Stand that operated for about a score of years in the township that was named after Andrew Moore. However, the same business continued in the new village of Belle Rive.

ALDINE BOUDINOT KEMP REPORTING

John (Quincy) Boudinot was born April 27, 1831, in Athens County, Ohio. On August 3, 1856, he was married to Levina A. Tinker, also of Athens County, Ohio.

While still in Athens County, their first child, Florence A. Boudinot, was born; and shortly after her birth, John and Levina Boudinot with the young baby left their home in Ohio and emigrated to Illinois. They settled in Moores Prairie Township in the old Fair Play School District, Jefferson County, Illinois. The abstract of his farm stated that the greater part of the land was purchased directly from the Federal Government. It was on this farm that he spent the rest of his life (with the exception of his period of service during the Civil War) and reared his children.

A friendship almost like blood kinship existed between the families who migrated from Ohio to Jefferson County, Illinois. Among those settlers were the following families besides the Boudinots: the Hughes, the Invins, the Orams, the Woodworths, and the Martins. Even unto the second and third generations the friendships among these families has flourished.

John and Levina Boudinot were the parents of the following children: Florence A., born April 12, 1857, who married William N. Roberson; Charles Tinker, born February 14, 1859, who married Emma Leake; Effie May, born February 21, 1862, who married Charles C. Parkes; Austin (Ott) Fuller, born September 10, 1866, who married Mary Louise Mecond; and William Walter, born October 3, 1870, who died in 1873.

From his home in Moores Prairie Township, John Quincy Boudinot walked to Salem, Illinois, to volunteer for service in the Union Army during the Civil War. When he refused to let his small son, Charles, accompany him to Salem, the child was so frustrated that he threw a stone at his father. John Boudinot served three years with Company D of the Sixth Regiment of Illinois Cavalry Volunteers, and received the rank of Quartermaster. The cheerful and encouraging letters which he wrote to his wife and three children during his three years of Army service in the South are prized by his grandchildren.

Mr. Boudinot's occupations before and after his service for his country was that of farmer and livestock producer. He was a member of the New Hope Methodist Church and also was a member of the Masonic Lodge for forty years.

Mr. Boudinot died on March 6, 1898, and was laid to rest beside his wife and infant son in New Hope Cemetery.

On the home farm, later called Maple Hurst, his son "Ott" lived and reared his daughters, Aldine, Glennys and Louise. Mr. Boudinot's sons, grandsons Boudinot and Parkes, and great grandsons Kemp have followed in his footsteps in their love for animals and farm life.

The present day thirteenth generation of Boudinots trace the ancestors of the family to Jean (John) and Marie Suire Boudinot who lived and died in France in the middle 1600's. Their eldest son, Elie (or Elias) Boudinot I, migrated to New York with his motherless children to take his place in the New World. Three generations later Dr. John Boudinot (direct ancestor of John Quincy Boudinot) was a surgeon in the young American Army of the Revolution, and his Brother Elias IV was a statesman and President of the

Continental Congress when George Washington became President of the United States. This family has had sons in every war in which the United States participated except the Spanish American War (Charles T. Boudinot and Austin "Ott", sons of John Q. Boudinot, were preparing to enter service, but the Spanish American War was over before they could be accepted. They had had considerable arranging to make, inasmuch as they had buried their father on March 6, 1898.) John Boudinot (1791-1891) was a veteran of the War of 1812. His son, John Q. Boudinot (the principal character of this sketch) served for three years in the Civil War. John L. Boudinot (son of Charles T. Boudinot) and Frank Parkes (son of Effie May Boudinot Parkes) represented the family in World War I. William T. (Bill) Fuller, Jr., son of Louise Boudinot Fuller, volunteered for Naval duty during World War II, and was wounded many times; Bill Fuller's younger brother, Donald Vaughn Fuller I, volunteered for duty and was wounded in an Engineer Battalion during the Korean Conflict.

The last descendant of this branch of the family who bears the family name is William Hillery Boudinot (born in 1903) of Belle Rive, the son of Charles T. Boudinot, ten generations removed from John and Marie Suiire Boudinot of France.

John Q. Boudinot's descendants today may be found in many fields of activity: homemakers, educators, lawyers, nurses, business men, railroad officials, real estate, plant and animal husbandry and various branches of government service.

MRS. ALVA L. MARLOW REPORTING

James Atwood Allen was born February 22, 1839, near West Salem, Shiloh Township, Jefferson County, Illinois.

He served his country during the Civil War from August 6, 1861 until September 15, 1864. He served in the first full company to leave Jefferson County -- Volunteer Company I, Forty-fourth Illinois Infantry. John A. Wall, who later wrote a Jefferson County History, was his company commander.

James Allen saw much hard service during the Civil War. His first battle was Pea Ridge, Arkansas. The next was Perryville,

Kentucky, then Stone River. He was critically wounded at the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia, where he lost the use of his right arm. Later, he was taken prisoner in the infamous Andersonville and Libby Confederate prisons, being confined sixty-seven days. He was discharged in Atlanta, Georgia, with high honors on September 15, 1864.

On June 17, 1875, James Allen was married to Mary Elizabeth Sursa, and to this union were born three children: Inez, born April 8, 1876, who married Harvey B. McMicken; Fleata, born October 10, 1878, who married Chris Himmelsbach; and Martha, born March 31, 1886, who married Alva L. Marlow.

Mr. Allen's principal occupation was that of farming. He served as constable and poundmaster of Belle Rive (1893). He served as a trustee of the Belle Rive Methodist Church, where his wife Mary served in various church groups for more than seventy-five years. He was also active in the GAR and the IOOF.

Mr. Allen passed away on April 12, 1917, at the age of seventy-eight.

PAULINE CROSS ROTH REPORTING

Marshall Huel Cross was born February 7, 1870, at Middle Creek, Hamilton County, Illinois. He was the son of a carpenter and farmer, John Calvin Cross. John Cross met his Master while building Middle Creek Church, due to a faulty scaffold that had been erected. At the time of his father's death, Marshall Huel Cross was two years of age and was one of twelve children left orphans, ten of them being boys.

At an early age Marshall Cross showed a great liking for books and was an excellent student. After finishing the grades, he prepared himself with academy training to be a schoolmaster. To be a schoolmaster was a challenge in more ways than educational, for many of his students were boys of his own age and much larger in stature, even though he was five feet ten inches tall and weighed about 156 pounds. He taught in many schools in Hamilton and Jefferson County, Illinois, including Belle Rive.

He met Fannie Marjorie Sims at a church gathering at Antioch Church, near Macedonia, Illinois. Their friendship blossomed to love, and they were married in 1895. To their marriage eight children were born. Two sons died in infancy, and two sons and four daughters are still living: Marie of Washington, D. C., who married Claude Cole; Zola M., of Dahlgren, who married George Kiefer; Rhea of Belle Rive who married Leon (Ted) Shreve; Pauline of Mt. Vernon who married Calvin M. Roth; Marshall M. of Belle Rive who married Lena Sneed; and Huel of Belle Rive, who married Sue Sneed.

After his marriage, Marshall Huel Cross continued to teach at Belle Rive School, but his interest was turning to farming. About the year 1902 he purchased a farm four miles south and a mile east of Belle Rive, where he continued to live out his life on this earth.

While farming, he decided that farmers could be divided into two broad classes: those who merely tilled the soil and reaped the results, and those who followed the scientific knowledge of the time.

His vision into the future inspired him to go to the great western states about 1903 to buy a carload of high spirited western horses that graced his farm with offspring for his remaining years. This same progressive spirit inspired him to put the much talked-about limestone on his soil, the first man in the county to make this test for greater production.

He was always interested in politics, in which he always participated. He believed in the brotherhood one receives from organizations, and belonged to the Masons, Modern Woodmen, Moose and others.

The roads and highways of the country were of great interest to him, and he helped maintain and build roads and bridges to maintain the links in the chain of transportation. He owned one of the first cars in the township.

He was co-owner in a telephone system that serviced the community. He served many years on the Board of Education of his

local district, and was always striving for bigger and better schools with better qualified teachers. He believed in the cultural entertainment of the area, and acted as master of ceremonies at special lectures at Richardson Hill, Sugar Camp and other places, as well as helping in the Red Cross Campaign in World War I.

He taught his children never to say, "I can't" but always to say, "I'll try." He taught them to appreciate birds in flight, the stars at night, the new plowed ground, the golden harvest. He gave them books to read, love of freedom of thought, to appreciate work and its reward, and to make new friends until the day of death.

He passed from this life on May 27, 1946.

BONNIE NELL SMITH and GLADYS BAKER REPORTING:

Jesse Laird moved to the Belle Rive vicinity with his parents from North Carolina when he was quite young. He was born April 7, 1825, in Macon County, North Carolina, the son of David Laird, a native of Virginia, and the former Elizabeth Tumbleson, a native of North Carolina. He was one of ten children.

He went to school only about three months, to the old-fashioned subscription school, and this ended his formal schooling. However, he was by no means an ignorant man, as proved by his later success in life. He worked on his father's farm until he reached his majority, then he started buying hogs and driving them to St. Louis to sell them.

On one trip while driving some hogs to the St. Louis market he met a young lady, a complete stranger to him, and remarked, "There is my wife, even if I never get her." The girl's name was Martha Goodner, who had been born November 18, 1828, near Belleville, Illinois. She was living at Birkner, Illinois, at the time she met young Jesse Laird. She married him on June 18, 1856.

Martha and Jesse Laird became the parents of six children: an infant daughter who died almost immediately; Clara L., born on February 23, 1859, who married Dell Guthrie; Samuel T., born July 11, 1861; Sarah A., who married H. A. Shields; Flora B., born July 23, 1866; and Cora E., born February 9, 1868.

Mr. Laird got an insight in the stock business, devoted his attention to it, and amassed quite a fortune in it. He was the most successful stockman in Jefferson County in his day, and owned 280 acres of good land. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Belle Rive, and served it as a local preacher for a period of time. He at one time operated a hotel and livery stable in the village, and was one of its most respected citizens.

GLENN'S BAKER REPORTING

Charles A. Baker was born August 19, 1853, in Bennington, Illinois, son of William H. Baker, a native of Boston, Ohio, and a merchant. He was one of five children.

Mr. Baker was educated in Olney, Illinois, where he also clerked in a grocery store for three years. In 1872 he went to Madisonville, Ohio, where he learned telegraphy.

He secured a position on the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, working at Dahlgren, New Memphis, and later at Belle Rive. At Belle Rive he served in the capacity as station agent for many years, filling the office with tact and ability.

He was an active Mason and Good Templar. In politics, he was identified with the Republican Party. In the spring of 1883, he was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of Belle Rive.

L. D. DAVENPORT was born November 14, 1838, in Indiana. He was one of seven children. He went to school mostly in Jefferson County, Illinois. In early life he farmed, and then learned the blacksmith trade, which he followed for twenty-five years.

Mr. Davenport was married twice. His first wife was the former Mary C. Estes, and to them were born the following children: Minnie, born January 11, 1863; Nellie T., born December 16, 1866; Mary M., born June 8, 1869; Josie C., born November 2, 1870; Lydia C., born September 29, 1873. He was married to the former Louisa S. Bunnell on December 24, 1874. They were the parents of: Jessie, who lived only a short time; Otis, born December 26, 1878; Evaline, born March 11, 1881; and Florence and Bessie.

In 1882, Mr. Davenport formed a partnership with William Hunter, and they engaged altogether in the selling of lumber and farm implements in the village of Belle Rive.

Mr. Davenport was a Mason, and in politics was a Republican.

STEVEN F. GRIMES was born January 26, 1838, in Gibson County, Indiana, one of eleven children. He was educated in different counties in Illinois and Indiana. He farmed in early life, worked at the printer's trade one year, then studied medicine three years.

On September 15, 1861, Mr. Grimes enlisted as a private in the Forty-eighth Illinois Voluntary Infantry, Company I. He was later commissioned as a second lieutenant, and after the Battle of Shiloh was promoted to first lieutenant; he was wounded, and after his recovery was promoted to Captain of Company A, serving in that capacity until after the battle of Ft. McAllister, where he was wounded a second time. He participated in many thrilling scenes and famous battles, among them those of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Jackson, Mississippi, and Mission Ridge. He was with General Sherman on his world-famed "March to the Sea" and participated in the battles which occurred in that march and after reaching the coast. Finally, he was honorably discharged at Savannah, Georgia, and returned home.

Mr. Grimes went into merchandising after the war, first keeping a general store in Piatt County, Illinois. In 1866 he moved to Spring Garden, Illinois, and kept a store there until the spring of 1873, when he moved to Belle Rive.

Mr. Grimes married the former Laura A. Hoskinson, who was born on January 26, 1847, in Mt. Carmel, Illinois. To this union were born the following daughters: Florence B., born November 26, 1864; Minnie M., born December 2, 1867; and Lora A., born January 26, 1873.

Steven F. Grimes was the grandson of Steven Grimes, a soldier in the Revolutionary War, the Florida War and the Black Hawk War. The first Steven Grimes was a famous Indian fighter, and was scalped and tomahawked; however, he survived, though he lost his eyesight. He lived to a ripe old age and died near McLeansboro, Illinois.

NURTLE LEARNED REPORTING

Another true story of a man's agony during the Civil War is that of Hiram (Hyde) Fisher. Fisher, who lived a short distance from Sugar Camp Church, was the father of several small children, and his wife was on her deathbed suffering with what was known at that time as "lingering consumption." Because of his family obligations, Fisher did not enlist in the Federal Army as did some of his more fortunate neighbors.

Some of the thoughtless members of the community spoke critically of his not enlisting in the army, and threatened that after his wife died they would see to it that "Hyde" Fisher went into the Army.

Fisher's wife passed away while the harried father was being so persecuted, and Fisher was determined to attend his wife's funeral. At the funeral, Fisher carried a rifle for protection against his false neighbors; and seeing that he had the weapon, no one appeared to "get him." As soon as he could make arrangements for the care of his small children, Fisher enlisted in the army, which he served honorably and well.

BELLE RIVE got its name from Angus De Belle Rive, a Frenchman. It is reported that in the early days of the village there were two-story buildings on either side of the main street that runs north and south. The buildings are said to have been extended from a point some distance north of the L & N Railroad to as far south as the Christian Church, a distance of several blocks. A mill was in operation prior to the turn of the century. The name of the operator is not now remembered, but this enterprise was presumably engaged in the business of making corn meal as that product was in considerable demand during that period. It was the custom of many mills of this type to do custom grinding also of feeds for farmers as well as the grinding of the corn meal.

THE SLAYING OF PATRICK ROSS

An incident occurred at the Wilbanks Stand during the Civil War that caused considerable alarm and discussion in that community. It was a tragedy that was long remembered in that part of Jefferson County.

A family by the name of Kenner (some say "Kinner" but for simplicity we shall spell it "Kenner" because no one now really is sure), who were natives of the state of Tennessee, had moved to a location in Boone's Prairie Township to get away from the war zone. Some reports are to the effect that they located on a farm a short distance south of the store that Quincy Wilbanks was operating, but it has not been found on official records where the farm was located. Others have reported (these reports were given from memory and not from written records of any kind) that the home of the Kenner family was one or two miles north of the Jefferson-Franklin county line. It is not known whether the family was living on a rented farm or whether they owned the place. One report is given that Mr. and Mrs. Kenner and their youngest son, Gale, are the ones that came from the southern state, and that two older boys of the family were serving in the Confederate Army.

The opinions of those that have been interviewed on this matter are to the effect that the members of the Kenner family who had moved to Illinois were not showing partiality toward either the Northern or the Southern cause. As they were from a Confederate state, some people considered them as being in sympathy with the Confederacy. It has been reported that they were for the most part noncommittal on the subject.

Patrick Ross, whose home was within a "stone's throw" from the Wilbanks Stand, was a member of K Company, Forty-Ninth Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. It was during the month of April, 1864, that Ross was home on furlough from the Union Army. Several people who have given a version of the incident have all agreed that Ross lost his life at the Wilbanks Stand at the hands of Gale Kenner. We have received various reports as to what happened.

One report is to the effect that Ross and Kenner had been feuding for some time about the Northern and Southern causes, and instead of settling their differences, each discussion naturally increased their bitterness. After having several arguments at different times, they met at the store on the afternoon of April 8, 1864, and the result of this argument was fatal to Patrick Ross.

This report states it happened as follows: Ross and several of his comrades of the Forty-Ninth Illinois Infantry were on furlough at this time, and several of the veterans who were comrades of Patrick Ross were visiting him at the time of the tragedy. Ross had gone to the Wilbanks Stand for some reason and Gale Kenner had planned to go to the store to get some corn meal for the family, but decided to wait until late in the afternoon for fear that Ross might be there and another feud would follow. Kenner arrived at the store a short time before dark, only to find that Ross was still at the store. Shortly after Kenner reached the store, the feud started again. Ross is reported to have informed him, "We don't allow any Rebels around here, and we are going to run you Rebels out of the country." One sarcastic word led to another, then Ross knocked Kenner's cap off his head.

At this point, Kenner said, "Quit, Pat, or you will get hurt." The arguing continued for a few moments, then Kenner took a pistol from his pocket and shot Ross. One report is that the shooting happened in the store and that Ross fell over a stone counter. Another report is that the shooting took place outside the building and that Kenner fired three shots, but when the body was examined only one bullet hole could be found in the body.

Shortly after the slaying, a young boy by the name of Barbee (given name not available) was asked to mount a horse and go to the Ross home and notify the buddies of Ross that "Pat" had been killed in a "shooting scrape." As soon as the visitors at the Ross home learned of the tragedy, they left for the store with plans to catch the assailant and lynch him.

Kenner sensed that he might be the victim of lynching, and left the scene. He went directly to his home and told his mother of the slaying and informed her that he must leave the country at

once. He said he wanted something to eat, and his mother quickly prepared a sandwich for him to eat while on his flight. He had climbed over the fence close by the house and was ready to make his departure when his mother called, "Aren't you going to give me a kiss?" He replied, "Yes, I will," came back to kiss her good-bye, and immediately after this started through the woods to some destination unknown.

One report is that he went to the home of a family by the name of Wheller who lived about a mile from the Kenner home and stayed there during the night. Some of the Wheller boys who were near Kenner's age were believed to have assisted Kenner in getting away from the community. The Wheller family never admitted that they had any knowledge of his escape.

A group of men, including the comrades of Ross, quickly formed a posse and mounted some horses and rode to the Kenner home with plans to "swing him to a tree." After the posse of men reached the Kenner home, they made a very thorough search around the house and barn; but after convincing themselves that he had escaped, they returned to the Wilbanks store and did not inflict any harm on Kenner's parents.

We have never received any report that any charge was filed with authorities for the arrest of Gale Kenner.

Another report is that when Kenner left the scene of the accident he went directly to his home and told his mother about the slaying and said that he was leaving at once for Tennessee. He said that if he could get across the Ohio River he would be safe. This same source reported that a man was coming north through the woods near the Franklin-Jefferson county line and saw a man walking, but did not know who it was. The man that he saw going south soon disappeared into the woods. Some believed that the man who was headed south was Kenner making his escape. After the War closed, the Kenner family is said to have moved back to Tennessee, but they never knew whether or not Gale made contact with his parents again.

Another report that this Bureau received concerning the escape of Gale Kenner was that he went to North Dakota, and some years later some one that had known him earlier in life met Kenner and had an extended visit with him. Another report stated that he was seen some years later in the state of Texas.

A deed record that is on file in the Recorder's Office in Jefferson County shows that a man by the name of Kenner purchased a farm from a Mr. Bryan in Moore's Prairie Township on November 21, 1865. This transaction occurred several months after the war had closed. If the Kenner family lived south of the Wilbanks Stand at the time of the slaying, the indications are that they lived on a rented farm.

Another report has it that some of the men of the Sixtieth Illinois Infantry were home on furlough and were at the store the day that the slaying happened. We have learned from official sources that the Sixtieth Infantry Regiment were being furloughed at the time, and some of the personnel of the Sixtieth Regiment lived in the vicinity of the Wilbanks Stand. It is the sincere opinion of this Bureau that some of the members of the Sixtieth Regiment probably were at the store at the time of the slaying.

As the reports of the slaying of Patrick Ross and the escape of Gale Kenner vary considerably, we would not attempt to say which is accurate. Therefore, we will let the reader decide for himself.

ELDER BIRD G. GREEN

Bird G. Green was born February 20, 1885, the son of James (Clinton and Elizebeth (Howell) Green near Bluford, Illinois. He grew to manhood on the farm, attending Weatherspoon and Black Oak Ridge, the rural schools of the communities. He was married to Carrie M. Russell, daughter of Joseph and Jane (Webber) Russell on September 30, 1903.

Bird Green professed faith in Christ and was baptized by Calvin Richardson in January, 1906. He soon felt God's call to preach His gospel, so in the fall of 1908 he made his first public

effort to preach a sermon at Hickory Hill Baptist Church near Bluford. He continued to preach as opportunity afforded until in the fall of 1910 he was called to pastor the Belle Rive Baptist Church and also Mt. Zion Church north of Bluford. The following January he was ordained by the Bluford Baptist Church.

The following fall he and his family, which consisted of his wife and four small children, moved to Ewing to attend school to better prepare himself for preaching and pastoral work.

By the time he was ready to leave Ewing, the people of Belle Rive, wanting him to locate among them, sent two teams of horses and wagons and moved his household goods to Belle Rive. He then labored among them, pastoring the church, marrying their young folks, and preaching the funerals and comforting the sorrowing among them. His last four children were born at Belle Rive, so his family of children was practically raised there. As a citizen among the Belle Rive people, he took interest in the affairs of the village and served as street commissioner, village trustee and president of the village board several terms as well as school director and also assessed the township. Also, when the terrible plague of "The Flu" broke out in 1918, many people were sick and some died in nearly all the homes in the community. The State of Illinois forbade any public funerals, so Elder Green had to stand in the yards of the homes where death had entered to conduct funeral services.

The Ladies Aid was discussing at the Methodist Church who had been the most useful servant of their community, and they decided that Dr. J. F. Whited and Bro. Green had been the most useful servants of the people in that territory.

Elder Green's services were not confined to the village of Belle Rive, for in those days most of the Baptist churches had only fourth-time services; that is, each pastor could pastor four churches, giving one Saturday and Sunday to each church. So he would go horseback or in his buggy to Sugar Camp, Oak Grove, Union (south of Dahlgren five miles) and to Frisco Church ten miles south of Belle Rive. As the churches changed pastors often, he would also

serve Opdyke, Lebanon, Bluford, Keens and Keensville, all this before cars and hard roads. Also, he served Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of north of Dahlgren, driving his horse from Belle Rive. The people were so well acquainted with his old gray saddle and driving horse that when they saw Elder Green coming down through the prairie they would come out and ask him who was dead, as the phones were very scarce and the paper came only once a week.

Once he was driving home from his appointment from Union Church south of Dahlgren and met a Mr. Winkler, a mail carrier out of Dahlgren. Their horses were kneedeep in mud and could hardly pull the rigs. Mr. Winkler spoke and said, "Brother Green, which of us is the biggest fool, pulling through the mud this way?" Elder Green jokingly said, "I guess I am, for you get a lot better pay for your work than I do." That was only in jest, for Bird Green was getting great joy and satisfaction in obeying his Lord's will and serving His people.

Many people ask Elder Green nowadays how many funerals he has preached during his fifty-odd years. His reply now is, "Between two and three thousand. I have been careless of keeping records, but I do have two thousand, two hundred and eighty-one names down, but many of them I have failed to jot down."

Many of the funerals he preached were those of the war dead of both World Wars. One of the first sent back to Belle Rive from World War One was the body of Lieutenant Sam Gowler.

The first Jefferson County boy lost in World War Two was Turner Roehm, who grew up in Belle Rive and went to school with Bird Green's children. His body was never found, as he lost his life during the attack at Pearl Harbor. The Belle Rive community turned out in large numbers to a memorial service Elder Green conducted at the request of Turner Roehm's parents, with only his picture on a table in front of the pulpit.

Some of Bird Green's first funerals were preached for some of the first funerals conducted by the new Myers Funeral Home of Mt. Vernon. It is believed that Elder Green preached more funerals in connection with the Myers Funeral Home than any other one minister. Barney Myers of the funeral service was so impressed with the

quality and sincerity of his preaching that he requested before he died that Bird Green preach his funeral. Elder Green felt humbly grateful that he had this privilege.

When in the 1920's the churches of Mt. Vernon, such as Park Avenue and Second Baptist, called Elder Green, he and his wife sold their old home in Belle Rive; and for the last thirty-odd years and more he has labored in and around Mt. Vernon, besides holding revivals all around the State of Illinois. Now, he says, "My latest sun is sinking fast, my race is nearly run; my hardest trials now are past, my triumph is begun. Oh, come, angel band, come and around me stand. Oh, bear me away on your snowy wings to my immortal home."

BELLE RIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Belle Rive Missionary Baptist Church was first organized in the late 1870's. The first church building was a log building erected on land donated by John A. Flint north of the L & N Railroad where the old building now stands.

As the church prospered, the log building was torn down and a frame building erected. The frame building was enlarged three times during the years.

In 1952 the church started a new brick building on South Main Street under the leadership of Elder Grover C. Dorris, now deceased, who deserves much credit for the new building. The new building was completed in 1958, and the old church building was sold to the Free Will Baptist denomination, who now hold services there.

The church has through the years grown from a small beginning to the present membership of two hundred fifty.

MAURICE ESTES REPORTING

Walter P. Estes, known as "The Dean of Bankers", was born January 15, 1882, in Oplyke, Illinois and has made that community his home all of his life.

Prior to entering the banking business, he was employed by

the L & N Railroad, until he and other directors of the town of Opdyke, Illinois; organized on October 1, 1910, "The Security Bank of Opdyke, Illinois."

On December 15, 1912, Mr. Estes was married to Gladys Bell, and to this union was born one son, Maurice E. Estes on November 25, 1917. Maurice is married to the former Virginia Echols.

Walter Estes served as an officer and cashier of the Security Bank as long as it operated in the Opdyke community, and during his long career he was in a position to see the fluctuations of American business. He was the kind of banker who could and did watch the economy; and by using his knowledge and skill, he successfully operated a banking institution that withstood depressive conditions as well as periods when the economy was at an all-time high. As the bank with which Mr. Estes was associated longest was located for the most part in a rural community and the vocation of agriculture was the chief source of income for most of the bank's business, it was Walter's business to help the farmer prosper.

When the "Great Depression" of the 1930's struck the country with such great force, many banks across the country were driven into insolvency. The financial institution that Mr. Estes had the responsibility of managing felt the blow that struck the nation; but by closely observing the fluctuations of business and exercising great skill in the handling of the bank's affairs, he succeeded in keeping his bank in a solvent condition during the crisis.

He went with the Security Bank when it moved to Mt. Vernon after World War Two, but later decided to finish his career with the First National Bank of Mt. Vernon. For the past three years he has been associated with the First National Bank of Mt. Vernon as Business Representative. This progressive bank saw in him a friend of the people and one who could add to their many fine services to the people they serve.

At the present time he holds the distinction of having had more than a half century of continuous banking business to his credit, and is one of the most beloved citizens of Southern Illinois. He is known for his unselfish assistance to the problems of his

fellow men over the years, and many favors were extended by him on faith in others, because he enjoyed helping those who were in need of such service; his trust was very rarely betrayed, as somehow people are better after their contacts with Walter Estes.

Mr. Estes has often been heard to say, "Without my friends it would have been in vain. God bless them all."

MRS. ARTHUR COOK REPORTING

One of the early residents that lived near McLeansboro went to Ashley on horseback and left a colt in the barn at home. He stopped in Ashley that night, and the mare got out of the barn during the night and went home. The road between McLeansboro and Ashley ran south of the village of Lovilla and went near Sugar Camp Church and Cemetery. The mare, following her instinct for her colt, took the shortest route home. Her owner and some others followed her hoof tracks in the snow. The route that she took was from Ashley to Mt. Vernon, then a southeasterly course to where Lowery Hill is located; from there she went about a half-mile north of Richardson Hill; from there, she went by what was later Lovilla, and from there she took a straight course to McLeansboro where her colt was. A highway was built on the path that the mare took from Ashley to McLeansboro, as her path was much shorter than the original road that went farther south. A stage coach operated over this line, making regular runs from McLeansboro to Ashley and return.

John Halley operated a store at Lovilla, and when the L & N Railroad caused Dahlgren to be built, he moved his store to the new town. Prior to this, merchandise coming to Lovilla had to come by wagon from Shauneetown or Ashley.

OSCAR BRAKE REPORTING

David Usry operated a hotel and livery stable in Dahlgren for quite a period of time. He was a native of Kentucky, and while there he had been a tobacco grower and slave owner. He had some unhappy times with the Klu Klux Klan and the night riders during the Civil War.

Mr. Usry saw the first L & N train as it came through Dahlgren. The train crew quite often stopped in Dahlgren and took their meals at Usry's hotel.

Mr. Usry later in life often told of the first time the "iron horse" came through the new town of Dahlgren. It was such an unusual thing that the local people could hardly believe their own eyes. One man in the crowd as the train was approaching was

asked what he thought of it, and he replied, "It will never stop." After the new train stopped, the same bystander was heard to say, "It will never start!"

Mrs. Usry bought a farm from the government at \$1.00 per acre. To determine the length and width of the estate they used the system of "chain links." This was done by using a chain of a certain length and laying it on the ground to reach to a designated tree that was to serve as a boundary line.

Usry recalled that his first threshing of grain on his farm was done by tread mill. Mrs. Usry did her first home lighting with grease lamps. If coffee was scarce (and it often was), they would cook ground wheat and use the liquid for beverage.

FLORENCE WILKERSON REPORTING

Nathan Garrison was born August 21, 1817, in Kentucky near Mammoth Cave.

He was married to Sophia Shelton, who was born December 7, 1822. He and Mrs. Garrison were married in Kentucky and had one child before coming to Dahlgren.

They came from Kentucky on a horse-drawn sled, and settled on a farm about three and a half miles northwest of Dahlgren. He bought his land from the Federal Government, and it is believed that the price was fifty cents per acre. When he arrived in his new location, he had an ax with him; as timber was plentiful, he cut trees and hewed them, then built a log house for his family. Mr. Garrison purchased his meal and flour from Shawneetown before Lovilla had a mill.

Mr. Garrison was a merchant already established in business when the first train came through Dahlgren. A disability kept him from being in the army during the Civil War. It is believed that he got his furniture from Shawneetown to stock his store.

Mr. Garrison continued to live on his farm while in business, and would commute back and forth. At the time of his death, he owned one complete section of land.

He owned one of the first buggies in Dahlgren Township. As this was such an unusual vehicle, his neighbors would watch him pass their house with amazement and wish they had one. In later years, one of his neighbors related that a number of people would line up to get to watch Nathan Garrison pass their house in that wonderful buggy. The envy of his neighbors was beyond words.

Following are the children of Nathan and Sophia (Shelton) Garrison: Nancy, born December 1, 1841, who married W. M. Williamson and later married Peyton McReynolds; Elizabeth, born February 13, 1844, who married Joseph Jenkins; Edith, born January 17, 1847, who married George Hall; Mary, born November 2, 1848, who married Grundy Wilkerson; William, born December 13, 1850, who married Sophia Kuykendall; Ellis, born March 17, 1852, who married Catherine Sphar.

Mr. Garrison was affiliated with the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, northeast of Dahlgren. He combined several occupations: that of farmer and furniture dealer; he was the first postmaster of Dahlgren, and served as county judge of Hamilton County prior to 1900.

He passed from this life on September 5, 1905, and was buried in a private cemetery about three miles northeast of Dahlgren.

MRS. ROLAND CROSS REPORTING

Roland Robert Cross, M. D., was born July 27, 1888 at Dahlgren, Illinois.

He was married on November 19, 1914, to Isabel Hunter.

Dr. Cross served in the Government Services for approximately six years, in the Department of the Interior, prior to entering Army service.

He served his country during World War I, entering service in February, 1918, and being discharged February 19, 1919, with the rank of First Lieutenant, M. C.

He practiced medicine in private practice in Southern Illinois, in and around Dahlgren, for about twenty years. When a resident in Southern Illinois, he was a member of Middle Creek Baptist Church, southeast of Dahlgren.

He served as a District Health Superintendent, Department of Public Health, State of Illinois, for about eight years; he became Assistant Director of Public Health for the State of Illinois in 1939 and Director of Public Health in 1940, serving in the latter capacity for almost twenty years.

After moving his family to Springfield, he became a member of the First Christian Church of Springfield, Illinois.

Dr. Cross was prominent in many civic and professional organizations, among them the County, State and American Medical Societies; he served faithfully in the Disabled American Veterans organization, and with the American Legion. Highest office with the American Legion was that of Department Commander of the State of Illinois.

WILLIAM JONES REPORTING

Daniel Jines was born October 14, 1850, at Mullenberg, Kentucky.

He first came to this area in 1862 to get away from the Civil War trouble area, and settled near Lovilla. He said there were Southern sympathizers near Lovilla. At a meeting at Lovilla, some people favoring the South fired on the American flag. During the Civil War one night, some one called at the Jines home near Lovilla and the young Daniel Jines heard him say, "Get to the brush!" He always believed that the night callers were favoring the South.

Daniel Jines lived in this area when living conditions were still quite primitive. He later told his children of an occasion when a lady who lived northeast of Dahlgren started toward Belle City to get a kettle of live coals, as they had no matches. On the way back, she met a bear along the way. She thought the bear would attack her, so she threw the live coals at the bear and had to go elsewhere to look for more coals to kindle her fire.

Daniel Jines later lived four and a half miles northeast of Dahlgren, and belonged to the Bethel Methodist Church near his home. He was a farmer by occupation and never held public or church

office, though he was active in the International Order of Odd Fellows at Dahlgren. Many times he walked to Dahlgren and back to attend revivals, a round trip of nine miles. One of his brothers was Reverend Jasper Jines, a Methodist minister.

Jines once had a trusty dog that showed much intelligence. Many mornings before breakfast he would tell the dog to go to the timber. As soon as the family had finished breakfast, the dog seemed to know about it and would start barking. Jines would follow the dog's bark to the tree where he was stationed and would find a raccoon the dog had treed.

Once his favorite dog disappeared, and later some of his relatives who were still living in Kentucky wrote Mr. Jines and told him that the dog had appeared at their home. Jines could never understand how the dog crossed the Ohio River, as there were no bridges at that time across it.

Mr. Jines died in September, 1940, just a few days short of his ninetieth birthday, and was buried at Bethel Cemetery, a few miles northeast of Dahlgren.

GEORGE ALEXIER REPORTING

Benjamin Auxier came from Germany and settled near Dahlgren about 1835. He bought his farm from Joseph Shelton. Shelton had gotten the land from the Federal Government.

CAROL PORTER REPORTING

Dahlgren got its name the following way:

A cottonwood tree stood in the new town and some suggested that they name the town "Cottonwood." This was discussed with some of the railroad men when they stopped in the village to refuel their engine with wood, as coal was not available. The request was sent to the postal authorities in Washington, D. C., for naming it "Cottonwood," and the Federal authorities informed them another community in Illinois already had that name. One of the trainmen suggested that as Admiral Dahlgren had invented a new type weapon that was used in the recent War Between the States, and as

he was one of the owners of the L & N Railroad, that the town be named in honor of him. There being no resistance to this suggestion, the new town was so named.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

The Church of the Nazarene, Dahlgren, had its beginning in a small group of local people who were interested in the propagation of the doctrine of scriptural holiness. They met and worshipped together in rented buildings until lots were purchased and the present building completed.

The church was organized then, on December 3, 1944, under the direction of Dr. R. V. Starr, District Superintendent of the Illinois District, who gave a brief history of the Church of the Nazarene. The following persons were charter members: R. W. Linder (pastor), Lee Glenn (secretary), Carrie Glenn, Ray Glenn, Mary Glenn, Leon Glenn, Goldie McMicken, Sidney Johnson, Clara Johnson, Mary Woodruff, Noma Ratliff, Ollie Waugh, Sarah Deevers, and William Musgraves.

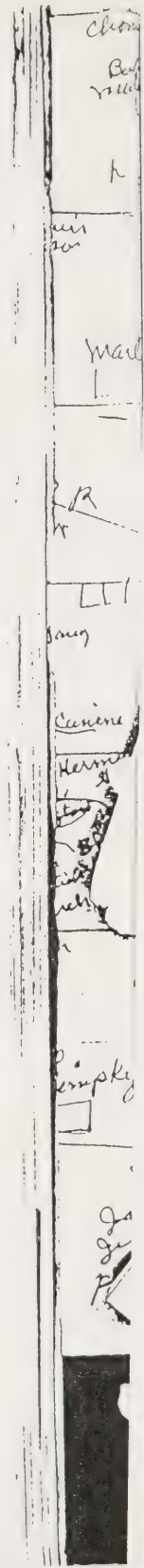
The names of the pastors who have presided over the years are: Rev. R. W. Linder, Rev. W. E. Campbell, Rev. James Leonard, and Rev. Roy Shifley.

DAHLGREN CHURCH OF CHRIST

This church began meeting in the home of Mrs. M. R. Wynn and her daughter, Rachel, in 1904 or 1905 for the study of the Bible and partaking of the Lord's Supper every Sunday. There were three families interested in the work.

In February, 1906, the church sponsored an evangelistic meeting in the Town Hall with L. D. Hill preaching. During the meeting several converts were baptized in the old mill pond where it was necessary to cut the ice which was about one foot thick.

At the close of the meeting, a Christian Church was organized. The church met regularly in the Town Hall for about four years with preaching services one Sunday a month. L. D. Hill was the first regular preacher.



A church house was built where the present one stands and dedicated July 24, 1910, with J. Fred Jones doing the preaching.

During the years many preachers proclaimed the Word of God for the church. They include: Isaac Kello, Bart Kello, J. E. Stout, J. J. Hudson, C. M. Smithson, J. G. Williams, Halleck Rowe, J. R. Debout, R. Leland Brown, W. S. Farlow and others. W. S. Farlow preached for twenty-five years.

September 13, 1930, the church building was demolished by a tornado, a great calamity to the church which was few in number; but with the insurance money and the careful supervision of Jasper C. Goin, Sr., the present building was rushed to completion in February, 1931. While it was being erected, the church met in a dwelling rented for the purpose of holding services.

In 1942, the members decided to use the name "church of Christ," and it is known by that name now.

—Hannah H. Goin

ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE CHURCH

According to the records, Mr. Charles Aydt of Piopolis moved to Cottonwood to engage in business. He was followed by his brothers, Thomas, Joseph, Solomon and Alphonse. These families were the first settlers in this settlement, which was part of Piopolis Parish until 1893, when the first Church was built. The village was later named Dahlgren in honor of Admiral Dahlgren, whose wife was a Catholic.

The first church was erected in 1893 by the Rev. J. N. Enzberger, and was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop J. Janseen, December 5, 1893. It was a frame structure with floor dimensions of twenty-three by sixty feet, with a seating capacity of one hundred fifty. Rev. Henry Keuth, who had resided with Father Enzberger for two years to attend the needs of the Parishes of McLeansboro and Dahlgren, became the first resident Pastor in Dahlgren.

The first Rectory was built by Father Keuth in 1896 at a cost of seven hundred dollars.

A two-acre cemetery plot which is located a quarter of a mile west of the Parish Church was purchased in 1900. Previous to that time the parishioners were buried in Piopolis.

The Parish record begins in 1894. The first baptism recorded is that of Teresa Florence Aydt (later Mrs. Frank Frey, McLeansboro) on January 22, 1894. The first funeral recorded was that of Josephine Gaul on September 13, 1897. The first wedding recorded was that of William Acks and Mary Shipley on November 12, 1896.

Today we find these family names on the Parish records: Aydt, Karcher, Wanzler, Schilling, Durbin, Lochr, Rubenacker, Ripplinger, Glatz, Rapp, Kiefer, Fleckenstein, Miller, Montgomery, Engel, Holdener, Keller, Friedrich, Reyling, Acks, Paul, Schuster, McGlynn, Hayden, Ewald, Birken, Kelly, Glaeson, Phillips, Karlof, Greenwald, Hickey, McPherson, Heck, Gaul, Haggerty, Freeman, Farmer, Frey, Ellis, Dale, Meyer, Dagerhardt, Lambert, Stich, Kaufman, O'Leary, Mitsdarffer, Glenn, Herzing, Rost, Grewe, Allen, Jines, Zächman, Birke, Heil, Kreher, Rawls, Nice, Spruell, Woods, Schuster, Smith, Schultus, Meyers, Walter, Trausch.

The parishioners are proud of the vocations to the Religious Life. These include: Rev. Henry H. Aydt, ordained to the Holy Priesthood on June 13, 1920; Sister Colletta Aydt, Ad. PP.S. (Sister died on June 22, 1914); Sister M. Inna Aydt, Ad. PP.S.; Sister Ewalda Ewald, Ad. PP.S.; Sister Rosaire Rapp, O. S. B.; Sister Miniem Teresa Kiefer, Ad. PP.S.

In the year 1903 the Pastor, Rev. Henry Muenster, built a two story brick structure measuring fifty by thirty-five feet and providing four classrooms. The bricks for this building were made in a kiln here in Dahlgren and the building was constructed by parishioners and men of the surrounding area who were interested in this building project.

In 1942 a new rectory was built by Father Frey.

In 1952 Rev. William Brandmeyer made plans for the construction of a parish hall. Many interested parishioners sacrificed much of their time and labor to this cause.

The ground was broken for the New Church on August 24, 1958. The corner stone was laid on October 4, 1959. The dedication and First Mass were said on October 20, 1959. The new church, of contemporary modified Gothic design, measures forty-two by one hundred thirteen feet and will seat three hundred in the nave, thirty-five

in the choir loft and forty-five in the winter chapel. The open tower in the southwest corner of the building houses the bell salvaged from the old Church. A Warrenacher electric automatic bell ringing system provides for the daily angelus and weekday and Sunday schedule of masses.

The following priests have served as Pastors: Rev. Henry Keuth (1893-1901); Rev. Henry Muenster (1901-1915); Rev. Joseph Voll (1915-1923); Rt. Rev. Msgr. Rudolph E. Jantzen (1923-1926); Rev. John R. Goeltz (1926-1931); Rev. Bernard Loepker (1931-1941); Rev. Joseph Frey (1941-1944); Rev. William Brandmeyer (1944-1955); and Rev. Meinrad M. Dunn (1955-).

DAHLGREN METHODIST CHURCH

In 1870 the L & N Railroad, known at the time as the St. Louis and South Eastern, went through what is now Dahlgren, which was then just a small settlement called Little Prairie. As there were no places of business the residents went to Lovilla, a small village now obsolete, to do their trading and get their mail. At this time the few Baptists and Methodists held union services in the schoolhouse and later in the new depot.

A. M. Sturman and Sons operated a grain and lumber mill a mile and a half east of Dahlgren, and from this mill lumber was hauled to build a Methodist Church. Among the founders and early supporters of this church were A. M. Sturman, Butler B. Underwood, Henry Spencer, Robert Giles, S. W. Hollowell, Columbus Shelton, John P. Stelle and C. W. McNair.

The church was built in the early seventies soon after the railroad went through, and was placed on a circuit with several other churches. Sometimes a pastor served as many as seven churches, and a circuit of five was not unusual.

In 1907 the church was remodeled and made larger. New pews and other improvements added to its attractiveness.

In 1943 a basement was finished to provide additional classrooms and recreational facilities. Since then, many improvements have been made in the basement, including plaster ceiling, fluorescent lighting, coal room, sink and cabinets, gas range and dining tables.

In 1937 a celotex ceiling was put on the auditorium and sanctuary, and in 1957 a hardwood floor was laid. The same year, Mr. and Mrs. John Wesley Graham gave money to build three new classrooms and Mrs. Graham presented the church with a new electric organ and chimes. Then, just before her death in November, 1957, she employed an Evansville contractor to put pennastone on the exterior of the church. Mrs. Graham was the daughter of the late S. H. Hollowell, and she and her parents were former members of the church.

During the years several ministers have gone out from the church, among them: Charles Atchison, Cook Kinison, Theodore Cates, George Burton, Wallace Burton, George Hall, J. W. A. Kinison, W. A. Sharp and Farrell Jenkins.

--F. J. McNair, V.M.

DAHLGREN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

This church was first organized under the name of "United Baptist Church of Little Prairie." The location was about two miles east of the present site of Dahlgren, and the membership consisted of both Missionary Baptist and Primitive Baptist people. They were organized about 1850 (the record is not complete as to exact date of organization, as they started holding services in the homes of members for three years or so.)

The first written record is one where on December 10, 1853, Thomas Belt and his wife Elizabeth issued a warranty deed for an acre of land to Young S. Lowry, James McKnight and Abel Kuykendall, Trustees of the United Baptist Church of Little Prairie.

The church trustees and the directors of Little Prairie School District together built a log building on the above tract of land, and (this bit of information is again by traditional rather than written records) this building was used for day school, meeting house and church meetings for a number of years. We understand that the Fairfield Baptist Association held its first meeting in 1857.

The L & N Railroad was built through this section of the

country in 1871-1872, and the original village of Dahlgren was surveyed March 9, 1872.

We find from the record of the church that sometime after the village came into existence that the church location was moved; for we find that on May 9, 1874, at their regular meeting: Moses F. Lowry, Jasper W. Cates and William R. Stull were elected Trustees of "Little Prairie United Baptist Church, located at Dahlgren, Hamilton County, Illinois," and that C. Y. Allen was Moderator.

On May 16, 1874, Abel Kuykendall and his wife Nancy issued a warranty deed to the trustees above named of the "United Baptist Church" for Lot 13 in Kuykendall's Addition, located at Dahlgren, Illinois, and that the lot was three hundred sixty by one hundred forty feet in size.

The frame church building was erected on this lot and was dedicated in 1875. The first meeting of the Fairfield Association that was held at Dahlgren was the following year, 1876.

In 1878 the Primitive Baptist group withdrew from the United Baptist Church and organized a church of their own, Lowry Hill Primitive Baptist Church, located approximately two and a half miles southwest of Dahlgren. From that time the Dahlgren church was no longer called the United Baptist Church, but was called the Missionary Baptist Church.

Dahlgren Missionary Baptist Church has been host to the Fairfield Association the years of 1894, 1915 and 1938, and has held numerous meeting days and revival meetings that will be long remembered by the residents of the area. It has had Bible School ever since the year 1934, when it was under the leadership of Lyman Allen. It was put on a unified budget under Harold Menke. It has Sunday School every Sunday, Young People's meeting and W.M.U. as the occasion arises.

MARGARET McPHERSON REPORTING

Chester Judd was born in Courtland County, New York, on April 7, 1816, and when about four years of age immigrated with his parents to Washington County, Ohio and in 1830 to Lawrence

County. Shortly afterward, he returned to Marietta, Ohio to learn the carpenter's trade.

In 1837 he married Miss Mary Burch, and in 1838 he removed with his family to Burlington, Ohio, and became a boatman on the Ohio River. He was owner and captain of the steamer "Lady Bryan," which he plied in the Pittsburg and Cincinnati trade for several years.

In March, 1854, he moved with his family to Hamilton County, Illinois, where he built a beautiful country home which stands to this day. This home is occupied at present by his granddaughter, Margaret McPherson, and her husband, James.

Chester Judd was a man of genius and enterprise, which he proved in many ways, and especially in building and operating the first steam flour mill in Hamilton County, Illinois.

Mr. Judd could trace his lineal descent back for many generations, being a direct descendent of Deacon Thomas Judd who came over from England in 1633 on account of religious persecution and settled with the Pilgrim Fathers in the state of Massachusetts. Chester Judd was a son of Giles and Catharine Judd, who were natives of Connecticut. His grandfather, Asa Judd, and his oldest uncle, Samuel Judd, were soldiers in the Revolutionary War, and his father, Giles Judd, was a soldier in the War of 1812.

Chester and Mary Judd had two sons, John and Albert.

Chester Judd became a member of the Dahlgren Methodist Church, in 1872, and he remained a faithful member there until the time of his death. He died on January 27, 1901, and was buried at Richardson Hill Cemetery.

Albert Judd, son of Chester, served in the Civil War. He was first married to Mary A. McCoy, and they had six children, three of whom died young. Ed, Merritt and Alice were their surviving children. After the death of his first wife, he was married to Laura McCoy, and to them was born a daughter, Margaret.

DAVID FRANK WHITED, M. D.

= Of all occupations, businesses, professions and walks of life, one of the greatest vocations of human endeavor is that of the medical profession. The work of the physician and surgeon is to render assistance in the recovering from the numerous ills and injuries with which the human race is constantly confronted. The need of the service of the doctor is continuous and often urgent. The inhabitants of the Dahlgren area have had for approximately three score years an individual who has been a proven asset to the community. He has in thousands of cases rendered medical service, often under the greatest of handicaps.

The person to whom we refer is, of course, Dahlgren's beloved Dr. Whited.

The Whited family were natives of the state of Pennsylvania and settled on a farm a short distance north of the village of Dahlgren when David Frank Whited was quite young.

As farming was not the calling for Frank Whited, but the medical profession, he began to think early in life of making preparation for the study of medicine. After reaching early manhood, he taught one full school term in the vicinity where he resided, then enrolled in the Medical Department of the University of Nashville, Tennessee. Upon completion of his studies at the medical school, he began the practice of medicine at White Bluff, Tennessee.

After two years of medical practice at the Tennessee town, he decided to return to the vicinity where his family had moved when coming from the eastern state. In the year of 1901 he returned to Dahlgren and began the practice of his chosen profession in the community that he considered his home.

Dr. Whited has catered to the general practice of medicine and was rated as one of the most capable diagnosticians in this part of the country. His chief concern has always been the welfare of the patient, regardless of the weather or other conditions that might prevail, including his own comfort.

Dr. Whited's patients have reached from Wayne City to Ewing, Illinois. During his career as a practicing physician he has been called to the bedside of countless numbers of patients who were the victims of almost all kinds of ailments. There were many instances when he hardly knew what it was to get the amount of sleep that one needs to carry on his daily activities. It has often been reported that he was more concerned about the welfare of his patients than he was about the compensation that was due him for his services.

Dr. Whited has continued his practice in Dahlgren and was not lured away to larger cities. The people of his community learned in the early years of his career that their community doctor could be relied upon. His work has been wide and varied. He has treated cases that were suffering with contagious diseases, those who were victims of infections, those who had received both major and minor injuries, as well as almost all the ailments to which mankind is subject.

In 1918, Dr. Whited had an accident while driving a Model T Ford when he was called to the home of a patient. The car went out of control as a result of radius rods coming loose causing the car to run off a culvert about a mile and a quarter south of Dahlgren. He was hospitalized at Mt. Vernon for about a month as a result of this accident.

One of his most difficult cases was that of a patient who was a victim of a critical case of tetanus. The severity of the patient reached the stage where it was necessary for Dr. Whited to examine and treat him twice a day for quite a length of time, but through skill and perseverance, he was brought back to health.

Dr. Whited and Dr. Andy Hall, Mt. Vernon's beloved senior physician, have on many occasions practiced together, and they are the best of friends.

Dr. Whited recalls many a call in winter months when both the weather and the roads were extremely bad. In some instances he even had to walk to get to his patients, as the horses could not travel. On numerous occasions he answered calls to Delafield during the night. He rode a train to Delafield and walked back to Dahlgren, a distance of five miles.

Dr. Whited for about twenty years was the only physician located in the Dahlgren area. The responsibility on him was heavy. A surgeon in another town paid him a supreme compliment when the surgeon remarked that if Dr. Whited sent a patient for surgery, he needed make no further examination.

During his medical career, Dr. Whited has attended in excess of three thousand births. He officiated at the birth of two of his own great grandchildren, as well as many another who lived to honor this great doctor.

Proof of the appreciation of the long service that Dr. Whited has rendered his community was shown by the people of Dahlgren a few years ago. His friends and neighbors decided to give their beloved doctor a surprise. Generous contributions were made to a fund to purchase a number of fine gifts that the people felt that Dr. Whited deserved. Among the gifts were a new car and a beautiful gold watch.

Many people have contributed generously over the years to make the Dahlgren community a better place to live, but it is doubtful if any one has made a greater contribution to the cause of humanity in the area than David Frank Whited, M. D.

MRS. JOA HUGHEY REPORTING

Joseph A. Zahn was born October 17, 1847. He came to Illinois from Indiana, and most of his life was spent in Jefferson County, Illinois.

He conducted a shoe shop in Belle Rive for some time, but retired from that business to enter general farming and stock raising, in which he was very successful. He dealt largely in stock as a buyer and shipper, and farmed extensively in Moores Prairie Township. He was very energetic and industrious and a man of excellent business judgment. His farm was one of the best in Jefferson County and thoroughly cultivated and always kept in the best of order.

For ten years he held a position of great responsibility at the Chester Penitentiary, where he was in charge of the farming interests of that institution. He also had charge of the purchase

of cattle and other stock of the institution, and saved the State of Illinois much money with his knowledge of the department with which he was connected.

Mr. Zahn was Supervisor of Moones Prairie Township, and held other offices of importance in the township.

He was married to Miss McPherson, and they were the parents of the following children: Van A., Fred R., Dene W. and Goldie. His son, Van A. Zahn, served his country during the Spanish American War and for many years worked for the Federal Government in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Zahn died of blood poisoning on March 24, 1921, and was buried at Richardson Hill Cemetery.

BERNARDINE DALE REPORTING

John Dale was born on December 16, 1856, at Hoodville, Illinois, a community south of McLeansboro, and which is located not far from the village of Dale, Illinois. His family had the honor of furnishing Dale the official name that it was to carry.

One of his ancestors operated a sawmill in this vicinity, and now doubt saved much of the lumber that was used to construct many of the early buildings in this community. It is reported that the engineer of the sawmill on one occasion got careless and let the boiler get dry of water, then did some hammering on an injector, thus allowing fresh water to enter the boiler. The result was an explosion causing one fatality.

John Dale's parents moved to McLeansboro when he was quite young. John decided to take up flour milling as an occupation years before he had reached manhood. He began his milling career with the McLeansboro Milling Company in the twentieth year of its existence. He was fourteen years of age when he started with the company. He was employed by Billy Coker.

John and Elizabeth Grace Dale were married on April 27, 1891. To this union were born the following children: Frank R., John C., Grace, Genevieve, Bernardine, and Anne.

The mill where John Dale began his vocation was a landmark in that community. This enterprise operated continuously for a period of ninety years, beginning operations in 1860 and remaining in business until 1950. If this old mill could only speak it could tell some interesting experiences. It saw the beginning of and the closing of the Civil War. It saw the reconstruction period following the close of the War Between the States. It later saw the United States enforce the "Monroe Doctrine" when we became engaged in war with Spain. After the close of this conflict, this milling company saw the turn of the century. Seventeen years after the coming of the Twentieth Century, this Hamilton County industry witnessed the coming of World War One; then in about a quarter of a century later it saw the beginning and ending of World War Two. The industry with which John Dale began earning his livelihood served the milling needs of countless hundreds of families during the ninety year period that it operated in McLeansboro.

Mr. Dale spent thirty-three years of his life with the McLeansboro Milling Company. Much of the success of this industry can be attributed to the skill and interest that John Dale put into it during the years that he spent in this particular business. He was superintendent of the mill for General Coker.

As the Dahlgren Milling Company was doing a thriving business during the early years of the Twentieth Century, and as John Dale had thirty-three years of milling experience behind him, he decided to expand in this field of activity; so he moved to Dahlgren and purchased an interest in that mill. He and his family moved to Dahlgren in August, 1913.

With the vast amount of experience in the milling vocation, it was natural for the management to request him to accept the position of superintendent of this company's business. He assumed the responsibility of the operation of this plant, and it became one of the most profitable milling enterprises for many miles around. He remained in Dahlgren until 1924.

A member of the personnel of this Bureau can recall going with his father to the mill at Dahlgren to purchase flour in its

heyday and listening to Mr. Dale and the customer carry on one of their jolly conversations as they both delighted in doing. They were very close friends for many years. John Dale is remembered for his keen interest in people and the skill that he exhibited in making the "old mill" the service that it rendered of so much value to the Dahlgren community.

In 1924, Mr. Dale moved his family to Mt. Vernon, and was a partner in the Dale Motor Sales Company in that community until his retirement in 1930.

John Dale died January 28, 1949, at the age of eighty-two in Mt. Vernon. He was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

DESCENDENTS OF JOSEPH SHELTON REPORTING

Joseph Shelton, an early settler near Dahlgren, was born in 1793, some say in the eastern part of the United States, though most of the descendents feel that he was born in Kentucky.

Joseph Shelton was a private in the War of 1812. He fought in the Battle of New Orleans in 1815, and the Shelton heirs have an old watch he found on the battlefield at New Orleans. He served, probably as a captain, in the Indian Wars in Illinois in 1816 or 1817. The Shelton heirs have his old rifle and powder horn that he carried in the Indian War. When this period of service was ended, he was discharged near where Chicago now stands. His horse was lame, so he turned it loose and walked to Southern Illinois. The captains in the Indian War furnished their own horses, and the pay was \$8.00 per month.

Joseph Shelton was married somewhere in the East in about the year 1817, and about 1820 he and his wife settled a mile north and a mile west of what is now Dahlgren.

Their first baby was born and died at the home northeast of Dahlgren. When Mr. Shelton was gone into the woods to make a coffin in which to bury the baby, a panther came to the door of their cabin. Mrs. Shelton drove the hungry animal away with a stick with fire on one end of it that she had grabbed from the fireplace.

One summer a long, hard rain had put out the fire which they always tried to keep near their cabin in order to have fire with which to cook. Mrs. Shelton rode a horse twelve or fifteen miles east to their nearest neighbor to get some fire in an iron pot. She covered the glowing coals with ashes so it would not go out during the long journey back home.

The children of Joseph and Mrs. Shelton included: Sophia, who married Nathan Garrison, the mother of David M. and Roman Garrison; Pernecie, who married a man named Rawls; Nan, who married a Mr. Richardson; Julie Ann, who married a Mr. Atchinson; Sylvester, who was the grandfather of Lawrence and Frank Shelton who live near Dahlgren; and a son whose name is unknown who was the grandfather of Carl, Berrie and Earl Shelton.

Joseph Shelton again served his country as a major in the Black Hawk War in 1832.

He was a very dignified man, and relied greatly on ceremony. It is often told that when he was coming home if his wife did not come out and meet him and say, "alight, Mr. Shelton, and come in," he would ride right on by!

David M. Garrison, one of the grandsons of Joseph Shelton, has an old kettle about four and a half feet in diameter which has been in the family a long time. This kettle was originally used near Shawneetown, Illinois, to "boil down" salt water for salt in the early 1800's.

Joseph Shelton is buried on the old Shelton homestead northeast of Dahlgren. His heirs held a Shelton Reunion every year from 1915 to 1925.

MRS. EVA GAGE REPORTING

Nelson Zellers was born February 20, 1841, at Hagerstown, Maryland. His parents decided to move from their Maryland home to the State of Ohio when he was quite young. He grew to manhood in the Buckeye State in the city of Zanesville.

In April, 1861, young Nelson Zellers enlisted as a private in the Union Army. He was assigned to Company G, Sixty-second

Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served two enlistments without taking a discharge.

He served in some of the hardest fought battles of the Civil War. He had a great admiration for the Stars and Stripes and honored the Union very highly as long as he lived. It was his strong conviction that no flag should ever fly over this nation except Old Glory, and that was what caused him to enlist and fight in his country's service.

In his later years of life, he often told members of his family that on numerous occasions he had seen President Lincoln when the Commander-in-Chief visited battle zones. Some of the troops were of the opinion that their President was an infidel, but Zellers stated that he knew Lincoln requested the men to have prayer before going into battle.

All the engagements that Nelson Zellers took part in are not available to this Bureau. However, we know that the worst wound that he received (which caused him to remain a cripple for the rest of his life) occurred at Rice's Station, Virginia, four days prior to the surrender of the Confederate forces by General Robert E. Lee to General U. S. Grant. We are informed that Zellers was hospitalized for a considerable length of time as a result of this wound from which he never completely recovered.

He received his discharge from the Army on December 7, 1865. He decided to make his home in Illinois, and in 1866 he located on a farm in the vicinity of Dahlgren, Illinois, and remained a farmer by occupation until his retirement.

On March 26, 1872, Nelson Zellers was married to Emily J. Thierry. To this union were born the following children: Minnie, Frank, Eva, Etta Stillman, and three children who died in infancy.

Nelson Zellers was one of those sturdy pioneers who believed in sound principle, whether it be in military life or civilian life, and he held to the theory that the common good of the community and the welfare and progress of his fellow men were the things that counted most. The sacrifices that he made in the war and the kind of life that he followed as a civilian pointed up the

kind of character that was to be found in Nelson Zellers. He was a convert to Christianity, and joined the Presbyterian Church at Belle Prairie, Illinois.

He was keenly interested in his farm and was actively engaged in that pursuit until he entered retirement, when he moved to town in 1906.

LOWRY HILL

The Lowry Hill Church and Cemetery had its beginning with the well-known Lowry family (sometimes spelled Lowery) that emigrated from Kentucky to Hamilton County, Illinois during the first half of the Nineteenth Century. There were four brothers of this family, as follows: (the order of listing is not necessarily the order of births) John Lowry, Sr., Light Lowry, David Lowry and Young Lowry. We were unable to procure much history on the latter three of the brothers.

JOHN LOWRY, SR., is reported to have been the eldest of the four brothers. He was one of the oldest residents of Jefferson County. He was born in Warren County, Kentucky, on May 3, 1803. His parents were John and Elizabeth (Reese) Lowry. In 1806 his parents moved to what was at one time Franklin County, Tennessee, but was later named Coffee County, Tennessee.

In early life John, Sr., attended subscription schools, but in later years he obtained some self-education. Prior to the time that he reached manhood he lived with his parents, working with his father on the farm and also assisting his father with the work in their cooper shop.

John Lowry, Sr., was married in Franklin County, Tennessee, on July 3, 1823, to Nancy Martin who was the daughter of Alexander and Nancy (Dabney) Martin. Both of Nancy's parents were natives of Pennsylvania. A few months after John and Nancy were married they decided to leave their Tennessee home and come to Illinois. They arrived at Lovilla on January 24, 1824. This was before Lovilla was surveyed and became a legalized village.

John and Nancy lived at their Lovilla home for about a year

when they decided to establish for themselves a permanent home. The place where they settled which was to become their permanent home was located about two and a half miles southwest of where the village of Dahlgren is now located. This farmstead, which was located on a high knoll, was later known as "Lowry Hill."

According to reports, John, Sr., had inclinations of a builder and had the ability to construct homes. As he knew the carpenter trade and timber was plentiful at that time, it was only natural for him to begin at once to build a permanent home for himself and his family. This was to be the home where he would remain the rest of his life. He continued to acquire land until he owned over three hundred acres. His new home was located on the Jefferson County side of the Hamilton-Jefferson County line and it was convenient for him to own and operate farms in both counties.

John, Sr., and Nancy (Martin) Lowry were the parents of fourteen children, as follows: Sons: William, Daniel, John Jr. Thomas, Elisha, Jefferson, Alex, Levi, Jessie. Daughters: Sarah (who married Zachariah Sinks), Elizabeth (who married Alfred Dees), Mary (who married Gabriel Jines), Nancy and Hanna.

Nancy (Martin) Lowry passed away on November 16, 1880. John's second marriage was to Nancy Willis, and this marriage was solemnized on June 9, 1881. John's second wife was the daughter of James and Nancy Willis, who were natives of Virginia. John and his second wife were the parents of one daughter, Susie (Lowry) Thomas, who was born May 20, 1882.

In the earlier years of his life in Illinois, John Lowry, Sr., was a member of the Sugar Camp Baptist Church, one of Jefferson County's oldest landmarks, which is located on the historic "Old Goshen Road." John, Sr., took considerable interest in local government and community affairs. He served as Justice of the Peace, Constable, Township Trustee and Director.

During the time of the old Illinois State Militia, which dates from 1832, he was elected Lieutenant of a military company and held that office for about five years. (It was the practice in

those days for unit commanders to be elected by the personnel of the unit instead of being appointed by commanders of army organizations.) John, Sr., served in the Black Hawk War under a Commander Beckerstoff. In political life he was a Democrat. John Lowry, Sr., and a partner by the name of Dyan Knowles operated a store in Dahlgren in the early 1870's.

After John, Sr., had settled on what was later to be known as "Lowry Hill," he liked this location and the surrounding locality so well that he made it his home for the remainder of his life. In addition to being quite active in local political affairs and community activities, he spent the most of his time on the farm, as that was his chief source of livelihood.

As was stated before, John Lowry, Sr., was an active member of Sugar Camp Missionary Baptist Church, which was located several miles from his home. As he was a firm believer in the Primitive Baptist faith, it was his desire that a church of that faith be organized in the community where he resided. There were several families who had joined Missionary Baptist churches who were believers of the same faith that John Lowry was, and they too were interested in having a church of their own faith in their local community. With this thought in mind John, Sr., along with some of his relatives and friends, proceeded to organize a community church of their choice so that they could worship their Creator as they saw fit. As John had acquired a large amount of farm land, he felt that he could easily spare some acreage to be used to erect a church building and establish a public burial ground.

A deed record filed with the recorder's office of Jefferson County shows that John and Nancy Lowry conveyed two acres of land adjoining their home. This is located in Section Thirteen, Moores Prairie Township, within a "stone's throw" from the Jefferson-Hamilton County line. This land was conveyed to the Trustees of Sugar Camp Church. This church was first called Sugar Camp, but was later named Lowry Hill as there was (and is) the Sugar Camp Missionary Baptist Church still in existence. The original trustees were T. L. Hunter, Martin Sewell and William J. Taylor. The deed

provided that the land would be conveyed to the trustees and their successors forever. This two-acre tract of land was conveyed on March 15, 1877.

It is reported that John Lowry, Sr., was not only very active in organizing the church but was very active in the affairs of the new church for the remainder of his life. He contributed generously to the expense of the church and attended services regularly. His home was considered as a headquarters for visiting ministers. If clergymen from other parts of the country were at services at Lowry Hill, they could always find lodging at the home of John Lowry, Sr.

John, Sr., was privileged with the opportunity of remaining on this earth fourteen years and one month from the date that he and Nancy conveyed two acres of their estate for \$20.00 for the establishing of the church and cemetery of their choice. He passed away on April 14, 1891. Thus ended the career of the man that played the predominant role in the founding of what is now known as Lowry Hill. His body was laid to rest in the Lowry Hill Cemetery.

ALBERT LOWRY REPORTING

John A. Lowry, a native of the Dahlgren, Illinois, community, was born May 4, 1852. He was a son of Young Lowry, a younger brother of John Lowry, Sr. John A. Lowry grew to manhood on a farm in the vicinity of Dahlgren. As he was mechanically inclined, he took an interest in the blacksmith and carpenter trades in the early years of his life. It is reported that he had developed skill in both of these trades before he had become of legal age.

As farming, blacksmithing and carpentering seemed to be his callings in life, he spent the most of his stay on this earth following those vocations. We do not know how many of the early homes he helped to build in the Dahlgren area; neither do we know how many plowshares he sharpened for the farmers in the area during the early days of his life, but they were many.

John A. Lowry was married to Melissa Jane Latham; the date of their marriage is not available. Like his uncle John Lowry, Sr., John A. Lowry believed in bringing up large families in the world. He and Melissa were the parents of eleven children, seven boys and four girls, as follows: William S., Ida May, Mary Jane, Charles A., Marion F., Thomas H., Walter O., Delilah Jane, Albert W., John F., and Goldia J.

John A. Lowry continued to live in and near Dahlgren until the year 1894, when he purchased a farm near Wayne City, Illinois, where he made his home for two years. He sold this farm and moved to St. Clare, Missouri, in 1896.

Prior to the turn of the Century, some of the land in Missouri could still be homesteaded, and John was successful in homesteading a forty-acre tract in the new area. He and the sons who moved with him to Missouri cut and hewed logs and built a home for themselves. There was a demand for railroad ties in the vicinity of their new home and, as this work provided an income for the family without having to go to distant places, John A. and his sons made ties and sold them to the railroads.

Mr. Lowry did not get to live long in his new home. He was delivering a load of ties to market when he contracted pneumonia and passed away in the year of 1898. He was buried in Lost Creek Cemetery in Wayne County, Missouri.

ERMA PERCE REPORTING

William Shelton Lowry was born September 13, 1873, in the vicinity of Dahlgren, Illinois. He was the eldest child of John A. and Melissa Lowry, who were pioneer members of that community. "Willie", as he was commonly known to his numerous friends, was a grandson of Young Lowry, who was a member of the first Lowry family that settled in the Dahlgren area.

Willie carried a trait that was quite common among the Lowry family. He was mechanically inclined, and early in life he learned to work with carpenter's tools, blacksmithing equipment and machinery of various kinds. He was rated as a skilled carpenter and a competent blacksmith. At an early age he learned the operation and

servicing of steam threshing machines and was very efficient in both. He became a skilled sawmill operator and sawed countless thousands of board feet of lumber for people in the locality where he resided. His principal occupation after reaching manhood was farming, although a great portion of his life was devoted to carpenter work in which he assisted in the construction of homes.

It is stated in another section of this book, his father's family moved to St. Clare, Missouri, in 1896. Willie lived with his father's family at their Missouri home for a few years, but returned to Illinois near the turn of the century.

He was first married to Maude TAYLOR, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. ALVIS TAYLOR of Northern Township, Franklin County, Illinois. Willie and Maude first located at what was known as "Tittle Hill," a few miles southeast of Mt. Vernon. They later moved to a farm in Northern Township, in Franklin County, in the vicinity that was known as "Need More." After residing here for a few years, they purchased the farm where Maude had been brought up. For many years this farm was commonly known in that community as "Taylor Hill." Willie LOWRY held ownership of this estate until the year of 1955, when he retired because of impaired health.

Willie and Maude Lowry were the parents of three boys and three girls: Caleb, Clarence, John, Erma, Vera (who died when young), and Una Pearl. During the severe epidemic of influenza that plagued the country from 1918 through 1920, Maude Lowry was taken seriously ill and passed away on March 7, 1920. Willie was later married on September 6, 1922, to Anna Hopkins, who survived him.

The farm home at Taylor Hill where Willie Lowry and his family lived had a considerable amount of local history connected with it. Alvis Taylor, Maude Lowry's father, lived at this place a number of years. Alvis Taylor was a veteran of the Civil War. A star route post office was established at his home, and he was named postmaster. Prior to the time that rural school districts were required to be two miles square, a rural school was located a short distance from Alvis Taylor's residence. The school, too, was known as "Taylor Hill." There are people still living at the time that this is written who were pupils of "Old Taylor Hill School."

Alvis Taylor also operated a blacksmith shop at his home in addition to being the community's postmaster. It is reported that he rode horseback to Ewing, a distance of approximately four miles, to get the mail for the Taylor Hill Post Office. The people of the local community had to come to the post office to get their mail. Mrs. Taylor became accustomed to serving dinner to many of the mail patrons; many people who came to "Taylor Hill" for their mail would stay for lunch, as they soon learned that the Taylors would invite them to eat if they "happened" to be there at the appropriate time.

Willie Lowry had a generous father-in-law. It was reported some years ago that Alvis Taylor stated that he guessed he had the finest neighbors in the country. He said, "If my neighbors borrow some of my tools or implements and keep them for a while, when I go to their place to get them they never refuse to let me have them."

When the legislation was enacted that required rural school districts to be located two miles apart, a new Taylor Hill School was built. It was located one mile due north of the site of the old Taylor Hill Post Office, thus enabling the home of Willie Lowry to still be in the historic Taylor Hill School District.

All during his life Willie Lowry showed an interest in the affairs of the local community. He held various local offices. He served as Justice of the Peace, president of the Frisco Telephone Company (now discontinued), was active in the work of the Frisco Baptist Church where he was a member for many years. If a committee needed to be appointed for some special project, he was always willing to give active service. As he was a mechanically inclined person, there were times when the telephone exchange at Frisco would need servicing, and it would fall his lot to furnish the repair service for the switchboard. (Frisco is located two miles from the old Taylor Hill Post Office.)

"Bill" Lowry was the kind of citizen who tried to make the community a better place for humanity to live in than it was when he arrived. During the span of his life he exercised concern for

the welfare of his fellow men. He made a mark of distinction in the communities where he resided.

He passed away February 11, 1958, and was buried in Thurmond Cemetery near Ewing, Illinois. Thus ended the career of one of the descendents of the Lowry family that played such a prominent role in the settling and developing of Southern Illinois.

LOVILLA

MRS. BLANCHE DULAW REPORTING

The little town of Lovilla, Ill. was located in Hamilton Co., in the S.W. quarter of the S. W. quarter of Section 21, town 4 S., range 5 E. of the third principal meridian. This is 2-3/4 miles south and 1 mile east of the present site of Dohlyrer.

Lovilla was surveyed June 21, 1854, but it is probable that it was a trading post for a good many years previous. It is not known who surveyed the site, but it may have been Enos T. Allen, who lived at Lovilla, and who was an authorized surveyor for Hamilton Co., or it may have been John Gidd, who lived in the Boone's Prairie vicinity.

The exact origin of the name of Lovilla cannot be traced, but one belief is that it was named after a certain Lovilla McLean, the daughter of Dr. William B. McLean, one of the first residents of McLeansboro. If this be the case, then it is evident that Dr. McLean may have established, or had a hand in establishing, the first place of business there. History reveals that Dr. McLean was a far sighted and civic minded man, and since land speculation and surveying of town sites seemed to be quite a money making investment during the 1800's, it is only natural that he would have been interested enough to venture into such a project. Another theory is that the word Lovilla simply meant "Low Town" in reference to its location in the lower part of the state. Others have suggested that since Lovilla was located at the top of a hill, and you traveled up and out of the valley before you could see it, hence - "Lo Villa," or, "behold, the village!"

The greater part of this town lay on the east side of the old "Fairfield Road" which ran north and south and connected with the "Old Goshen Road" just south of Hebo Church, and with the old "George Rogers Clark Road" near Fairfield. This old "Fairfield Road" was a route of travel long before the surveying of the "Old State Road" which passed through Lovilla at a N.W. - S.E. angle. This road was completed about 1850, and extended from East St. Louis to S.W. of McLeansboro, where it connected with the "Old Goshen Road" somewhere near Reed School.

Lovilla, according to an old plat, had three streets running in a N.E. - S.W. direction. (NOTE BY CONTINENTAL HISTORICAL BUREAU: Actually, these streets ran S.E. - N.W., if our information be correct,

which is borne out by looking at Mrs. Dulaney's copy of the town plat.) These were Vin St., Main St., and Olive, (Main St. being the "Old State Road"), and one street, called Franklin St., running in a N.E. - S.W. direction and intersecting the others. The old "Fairfield Road" was called Market St., and crossed Main St. in the center of town. The west half of Lovilla was known as the "Goodridge Addition," and was never laid off into lots, but the original town had thirty-one lots.

Lovilla, then, being situated at the crossroads of two main routes of travel, had the promise of becoming a thriving little town. The stage coach came that way, bringing mail and passengers from St. Louis, Vandalia, and Mt. Vernon to McLeansboro and on to Shawneetown, which was at that time the most important city in southern Illinois.

As the stage coach approached Lovilla, the driver blew a blast on a bugle, and the inhabitants swarmed out to greet him. Here the mail was delivered to the post office, and other mail and passengers picked up. Often the driver and passengers spent the night here, which must have been quite an event in the lives of the townspeople, since news was scarce and traveled slow in those days.

At one time the stage coach station, where the driver changed horses, ate, and sometimes spent the night, was operated by Thomas Burton, grandfather of John T. Wood, Carson (Jack) Wood, and O. B. Moore of Dahlgren. It is easy to understand why Grandfather Burton would enjoy such a position, since he loved to converse with strangers and has often been known to stop passersby, invite them in, feed and bed them, just for the sake of company and news from other localities.

At this point in my story, it would be well to mention that often shows and circuses passed through this little village. Their steam calliope would play loudly as they traveled along, and its music could be heard for miles around. Often the country people went into Lovilla that evening in hopes that "the show" had stopped for the night. Gypsies, too, traveled this way, begging, stealing and swapping horses, and often getting the worst end of the deal, for the Lovilla pioneer had plenty of "horse sense," and was not so easily "outsmarted" even by the cunning gypsy.

The people of this little community, like all other early settlements, had few conveniences. Before the days of the stage coach, they had to travel by horseback to Shawneetown to get their mail. They also made trips there after salt, and carried it back in a bag tied to the saddle horn. The meal was home ground, and of course there was sorghum and New Orleans molasses, the last being quite a luxury, since it had to be hauled a long way, - being made from the juice of Louisiana sugar cane. The nearest bank was at Shawneetown. The United States land office was also located there, so these people often had cause for a long and dangerous trip to Shawneetown. All dry goods, groceries, etc., were hauled in wagons, over bad roads, either from St. Louis or Shawneetown. Almost all commodities came in barrels, such as barrels of flour, barrels of sugar, barrels of unground coffee, and last, but not least, barrels of whiskey. (The late Enos A. Burton, as a young man, did much of the hauling for the John Halley Store at Lovilla.)

Lovilla seems to have reached the height of its advancement during the Civil War days. During this time there was a recruiting station at Lovilla, army officers from Shawneetown coming up to "muster the boys in." Captain Samuel Hogue was recruiting agent. John J. Wood, who had just recently arrived here from Ohio, enlisted in Co. G, 40th Ill. Infantry, at Lovilla early in the war. Captain Thomas S. Campbell of Lovilla belonged to Co. F, 56th Regiment. He resigned June 10, 1864. Other Civil War soldiers who enlisted at Lovilla are - Enos Allen Burton, Albert Judd, Edward Newby, Edward Learned, Austin Learned, William R. Burton, Archibald Stull, Simon McCoy, Thomas Drew, David Risley, Hiram Angel, Bill Thorpe, and Josuah Epperson. (NOTE BY CONTINENTAL HISTORICAL BUREAU: In pencil, the name of Alec Shipley is written at the end of the above list.)

Some of those who went to Shawneetown to enlist were - Martin Moore, and Steven Moore. Steven Moore was lost on the Battleship, "General Lyon," which burned and sank off the Atlantic Coast, as it was enroute home with a large number of Union soldiers at the close of the War. Most of these soldiers were from southern Illinois.

It was during the Civil War that a certain lady at Lovilla was expecting a registered letter, containing money, from her husband in the service. She never received the money, and after reporting it to

authorities, an investigation began. A certain Widow Doughty was postmistress at the time, and when the government agent arrived to investigate the case, Mrs. Doughty was doing the family wash at a nearby well. The agent decided to stop at the well to water his horse. As he stooped to sink the bucket, he spied an envelope floating upon the water. After fishing it out, he saw that it was the envelope from the missing letter. After some questioning, Mrs. Doughty admitted taking the money. It seems she had used the money and had been carrying the letter upon her person; but upon seeing the agent approaching, became frightened and wrapped the letter around a rock and threw it into the well. She was sent to a government prison for her crime. (This lady was not a relative of Dr. Doughty of that place.)

It is known that Lovilla had five doctors, namely, a Dr. Doughty, a Dr. Defoe, a Dr. Bernard, a Dr. Golden, and Dr. Horace V. Hall, father of Mrs. Nellie Hunter of Dahlgren. Three of these doctors are said to have been residents of Lovilla at the same time. The others lived there sometime during 1850-70.

At one time Lovilla had three saloons, on "jug groceries," as they were then called. Charley McGrath operated one of these saloons. Some merchants who had general stores there were John Halley and James Burton. George Miller had a blacksmith shop there shortly after the close of the War. This shop was located on the west side of the road in the Goodridge addition. This George Miller was the grandfather of Mrs. O. B. Moore, and Mrs. C. O. Upchurch of Dahlgren.

Other early residents of Lovilla were - Thomas J. Burton, Enos T. Allen, Rueben Oglesby, Philip Bearden, Sam McCoy, O. L. Cannon, George Irvin, Henry Runyon, and James Lane, one time judge of Hamilton County and inventor of the Diamond Plow. Some other well known family names from that vicinity are - Cook, Preston, Learned, Sturman, Venerable, Miller, McCarver, Lowery, Tarwater, Thomas, Angel, King, Oliver, Dale, Dewitt, Allen, Moore, and McKnight.

From Washington, D.C., Post Office Department, I secured the following census records for Lovilla in 1850 and again in 1860:

NAME	AGE	1850 OCCUPATION	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE	WHERE BORN
James Ellis	37	Blacksmith	\$480	Ill.
Elizabeth Ellis	38	--	--	Iowa

William Ellis	19	Laborer	-	Ill.
Langston Ellis	17	-	-	Ill.
Abraham Ellis	14	-	-	Ill.
Nancy Ellis	12	-	-	Ill.
John Ellis	9	-	-	Ill.
Hiram Ellis	7	-	-	Ill.
Cabb Ellis	3	-	-	Ill.
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James Halley	40	Farmer	\$300	Va.
Barbra Halley	40	-	-	Va.
John Halley	19	Laborer	-	Ohio
Marie Halley	16	-	-	Ohio
Jeremiah Halley	6	-	-	Ill.
Catherine Halley	4	-	-	Ill.
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Hiram Caps	24	Laboner	-	Ky.
Elvira Caps	22	-	-	Tenn.
Isaac Caps	5	-	-	Ill.
Thomas Caps	4	-	-	Ill.
William Caps	3	-	-	Ill.
John Caps	2	-	-	Ill.

1860 Census

NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE	WHERE BORN
Squire Hilman	65	Farmer	\$1850	Va.
Nancy Ann Hilman	52	-	-	Ky.
Joseph Hilman	14	-	-	Ill.
Nancy Ann Hilman	15	-	-	Ill.
James Conner	70	Shoe & Boot maker	-	Ind.
William Morgan	26	Farmer	-	Ky.
Harriett Cook	4	-	-	Ill.
James Cates	30	School teacher	-	Ohio
Benjamin McMahon	62	Blacksmith	-	Pa.
James McMahon	23	Blacksmith	-	Ky.
William Conner	40	House carpenter	-	Pa.
Robert Doughty	52	Physician	-	Pa.
Wesley Hotdier	45	Merchant	-	Pa.
Thomas S. Campbell	24	School teacher	-	Ill.
Harry A. Greer	26	Saddler & harnessmaker	-	N. Y.
Thompson Hitcheson	70	Grocer keeper	-	Ind.
Samuel A. Hogue	25	Blacksmith	-	Ind.
Jacob Helars	25	Wagonmaker	-	Tenn.
John Temple	74	Wheelwright	-	N. C.
Lorenzo Goodridge	43	County Judge	-	Vt.
John Holla	40	Merchant	-	Ohio
Chas. F. Glass	40	Farmer & Physician	-	Germany
Lube S. Wilbanks	33	Teacher of Music	-	Ill.

Chester Judd	45	Miller	-	N. Y.
William Sturman	47	Miller	-	Tenn.
John Cox	48	Miller	-	Tenn.
C. B. Harwood	22	Iron Boulder	-	Ohio
Hiram Anglier	21	School teacher	-	Ohio
David Richison	30	House Carpenter	-	Ohio
Plenson V. Cross	62	House Carpenter	-	S. C.
William Hobbs	34	House Carpenter	-	Ohio
William H. Mitchell	24	Engineer	-	N. Y.
John C. Judd	34	Millwright	-	Ohio
Joseph A. Hewlett	45	School teacher	-	Ky.

There is no record that Lovilla ever had a school or church, but church services were held in the homes by preachers who resided there or were just passing through (Sky Pilots). The nearest church was Little Prairie Church about 2½ miles north of there and organized by Eld. T. M. Vance in 1844. Later, Middle Creek Church, southeast of there, was organized. The nearest school was Old Moore's Prairie. Some of those from the Lovilla vicinity who attended school there are - Myrtle Learned, O. B. Moore, Hattie Learned, Ora Barbee, Omar & J. K. Goin, Arthur Hall, Charlie Goin, Frank Irvin, and Vada Jnigg.

About 1870 the news was received that the L & N Railroad would be built from St. Louis to Louisville, Ky., and Nashville, Tenn., and that it would pass through Cottonwood, 2-¾ miles N.W. of Lovilla. The people of Lovilla were very much disappointed, for they had hoped it would pass their way; but the railroad officials decided that the shortest and smoothest route was through Cottonwood (now Dahlgren).

Almost immediately the merchants began to leave Lovilla to locate in Dahlgren. Two of the first to do so were John Halley and James Burton. One by one the others left or went out of business. The buildings were later torn down or moved away, until only a few dwellings remained. Finally, they, too, were deserted.

Then followed a period of fifty or sixty years during which Lovilla ceased to exist. Then, in 1906, a man named Zugler erected a stone building there, in the Goodridge Addition. It was a general store. Later, Elza Cross and his daughter were in business in this same building.

The next operator of this store was Bill Hullinger. He was in business there for several years, until about 1929-31. Also, about 1918-19, Pete Sinks had a general store there, located directly

opposite from the Hullinger store. I remember that this building was painted yellow. There were hitching posts in front of it, and also in front of the Hullinger building, which was a long two room affair with the store in the south end, and living quarters in the north end. West of Lovilla about a quarter of a mile was where the Taylor family lived. Since these three houses made up Lovilla at that time, the school children at "Sunny-Side School" used to chant this rhyme -

"Hull Town, Sinks' Street,
Taylor Hotel, and
Nothing to eat."

(This was only in fun, of course.) Arthur Cook lived just east of Lovilla at the time, and F. M. Cook the first house south.

At this time in Lovilla's history, many will remember the lawn parties and ice cream socials there. Young folk came for miles around, and "Snap," "Four-in-the-Boat," etc., were the games played on these occasions. Most of the young men arrived in buggies or on horseback, since very few had cars. The young ladies were usually on the "lookout" for the fellow who had a rubber-tired buggy and a spirited horse with red tassels on its bridle. At these gay events, after you had eaten all the "home made" ice cream and cake that your "beau" could afford and had played "Snap" with every boy there, your sweetheart escorted you home, with the stars and a romantic moon overhead and the smell of honey suckle in the air. You always reached home by 10:30 or 11:00, which was "shamefully late" in those days.

Today, nothing remains to show that Lovilla ever existed. You see only neglected fields on all sides. The roads are almost impassable, with trees and bushes overhanging and bridges and culverts broken down or washed away. There are no buildings, no sounds, no signs of life - only solitude and memories remain.

Thus ends a tale of long ago,
A tale that only few could know,
For those of Old Lovilla's day
Long years ago were "laid away."
But we recall how they could tell
This story that they loved so well.
So, we can only hope and pray
We've told it half as well as they.

The above facts were obtained from an old "History of Hamilton, Saline, Franklin, & Hardin Counties," published in 1887 and from an old "Atlas of Hamilton Co." published in 1905. Other material I obtained from my father and John T. and Carson Wood of Dahlgren. The census of 1850 and 1860, I obtained through the help of a friend, Van A. Zahn of Washington, D. C., and formerly of Dahlgren.

Mrs. Blanch Moore Dulaney,
Dahlgren, Ill.

MRS. ARTHUR COOK REPORTING

Lovilla had two or three stores at its peak of existence, several saloons, two (some say three) doctors, a star route post office, a Baptist church, a Methodist church, and possibly another church (again, there is disagreement),

For a number of years, Lovilla had no mill. One farmer would take a load of wheat and corn to Shawneetown to trade it for flour and meal for himself and his neighbors. The next month another neighbor would take a load of the same grain for the group. This was carried on month after month, with all the men taking turns in "going to mill" at Shawneetown.

Some years later, the village got a great improvement, when a man named Sturman brought a flour mill and grist mill, making it possible for the local people to get their meal and flour at home. It is reported that Sturman included a sawmill in his industry. This was also a great improvement to be able to get lumber sawed locally. Like other communities of the time, timber was plentiful on all sides of Lovilla.

This community was blessed with a blacksmith shop, and could get blacksmith service of all kinds. A man by the name of Hogue operated a blacksmith shop there for quite some time.

Thomas Burton and his wife kept an inn for travelling people. A stage coach left McLeansboro daily, leaving there early in the morning. The driver of the coach carried a bugle, and when he got in hearing distance of Lovilla he would sound the bugle the number of times that he had passengers, and this was the way he notified the inn how many

people needed breakfast. Many travelling men when passing through took their meals and spent the night at Lovilla.

Lovilla was a stopover place for farmers driving livestock to Shawneetown to market. Many farmers who lived as far as Pittsboro would drive their hogs and cattle to Shawneetown, and would stop at Lovilla to spend the night. They took wagons along, and when the hogs became exhausted they loaded them in the wagons. Lovilla was equipped with stock pens so that the farmer who stayed overnight could keep his animals from straying away.

A company of men was made up at Lovilla to fight for the Union cause during the Civil War.

At one time Lovilla had a subscription school. A teacher was employed by the parents, and he was to teach a three-month term. The contract provided that the parents were to pay a certain amount of money; and the teacher would board with one family for a certain length of time, then with another family the same length of time, and rotate in that manner during the whole term. Simon D. McCoy, a resident of Lovilla, was employed to teach at least one of these terms.

During summer months, both churches were host to a large meeting that would last three or four days. This event was participated in by all Protestant faiths from many miles around. Basket dinner was served during the noon hour, and people from more distant communities would stay overnight with some of the local brethren.

Woods Prairie School, located near the village, was the scene of literary society meetings every week. The more cultured people could exhibit their knowledge at these events.

Deer hunting was a common thing, as deer were plentiful all around. Wild turkeys were also plentiful, and the hunting of these elusive and beautiful birds was quite a sport.

Weddings in the community were gala events. The wedding and the merrymaking that went with it usually lasted at least two days.

L. C. WOOD REPORTING

Richardson Hill Cemetery is rich with local history. It has been reported that veterans representing every war from the Revolutionary War through World War Two are buried at this place. This "silent city of the dead" is located on a high hill approximately two and a fourth miles south of Dahlgren near the Hamilton-Jefferson County line. The land was formerly owned by Aaron Richardson, grandfather of Vol Richardson of Mt. Vernon; hence the name Richardson Hill.

The first burials at this place are said to have been in the 1850's. A chapel is located near the center of the cemetery and is used for special events, such as funerals, Memorial Day programs, revivals and Easter sunrise services. In former years Christmas parties have been presented at this place.

THOMAS HILLMAN

The earliest person (though not the earliest burial) at this place is Thomas Hillman who served in the War for Independence. Hillman was born in Salem County, New Jersey on August 22, 1757. We do not have the names of his parents or the country from which his ancestors migrated.

When the American colonies revolted against the British crown, Hillman enlisted in the armed forces for the American cause. His initial enlistment was that of a private in a New Jersey company that was commanded by a Captain Smith. This unit was a part of a regiment that was under the command of a Colonel Holmes. When the troops with whom Hillman was serving were in New Jersey they were called the New Jersey Militia. When on military duty in other colonies or states they were recognized as a unit of the Continental Army of the New Jersey Line.

There were times when the troops were depressed and they would temporarily disband and hide in timber and thickets as best they could. During periods of despair, they would have to wait for weather conditions to improve and for their supplies to be replenished before they could attack. Conditions of this kind would cause them to almost lose their patriotic zeal and be strongly

tempted to return to their homes. However, Hillman was one of the Continental soldiers who served during the entire conflict, except for short periods that he would return to his home when his company was encamped a short distance from his residence.

Thomas Hillman was one of the men who experienced the bitter hardships at Valley Forge. It was during this severe winter that his feet were frozen and he lost one toe as the result. It will be interesting to know that the battles that Hillman engaged in were some of the most outstanding battles of the entire conflict. The principal engagements in which Hillman saw action were the battles of Trenton, Brandywine, Princeton and Monmouth. There were times when Hillman's activity was with Washington's Continental Army, and the rest of the time he was with the New Jersey Militia. It is not known whether or not he was wounded.

He was married a short time after the war ended. We are unable to learn the name of his wife. He and his wife moved from New Jersey to Virginia. They were the parents of three children, two sons named Squire (born in 1775 in Virginia) and Pate and an invalid daughter. It is believed that the three children were all born in Virginia.

The family was still living in Virginia when the United States became engaged with the second conflict with Great Britain. As Squire Hillman was old enough to serve in the armed forces, he joined the Virginia Militia and fought in the War of 1812. The dates of his enlistment and discharge are not available. It is believed that he joined the armed forces in 1813 or 1814, but we are unable to get verification.

A short time after the War of 1812 closed, Thomas Hillman moved with his family to Ohio (exact place is not known), and lived there until the year 1824, when he moved to Henry County, Indiana.

Thomas Hillman became a Baptist minister near the year of 1800. While living in Indiana he was known as a Baptist circuit rider. Instead of holding church pastorates, much of his work consisted of travelling over a wide territory and working at organizing new churches, and beyond doubt he served as evangelist

for revivals at various places in his territory. His legal residence was in Henry County, Indiana, though he was not at his home very often during the latter years of his life.

He was away from home attending to church matters at the time of his death. His death occurred May 5, 1835 at the home of one of his parishioners, about fifty miles east and a short distance north of Bedford, Indiana. Thomas Hillman was buried in a stone crypt near the home of one of his church workers. This first burial was intended to be a temporary burial, but his remains were not removed for thirty-three years.

In the year of 1868 a stone corporation notified his two sons, Squire and Pate Hillman, that they were planning to quarry stone from the place where Thomas Hillman was buried, and that if they desired to have the body moved to a burial place of their own choosing to please do so, or else the stone company would rebury it some place away from there.

Upon learning of the stone company's plans, Squire (who was living near Richardson Hill) and Pate (who was located near Paducah, Kentucky) drove a horse drawn vehicle to the place where their father was buried. Squire took a wash boiler and some cloth with him on his journey to Indiana. When they opened the stone crypt, they found a perfect skeleton with the exception of one toe bone. His sons knew that years before he had a frozen foot as a result of the bitter cold that he like his comrades had experienced at Valley Forge.

Squire Hillman and his brother Pate dismantled the skeleton carefully and lovingly, then wrapped it in the cloth Squire had brought and placed it in the wash boiler. As Squire had established a home a short distance north of "The Hill" with the purchase of eighty acres of land, and this place with the beautiful elevation had already been established as a public burial ground, they planned to make the reburial of their father at Richardson Hill. A short time before they left Indiana, Squire sent a letter by stagecoach to Aaron Richardson, who owned the land at that time, to obtain permission to bury their father's remains at Richardson Hill. Mr. Richardson received his mail at that time through the post

office at Lovilla, the famous village (now extinct) located a short distance from Richardson Hill. He granted permission without any hesitation.

Chester Judd, a well known farmer, miller and carpenter, built a coffin out of walnut for the remains. Enos Burton and Edward Newby, neighbors of Squire Hillman who had served in the Civil War, assisted in the reburial of Thomas Hillman. It will be interesting to know that both Burton and Newby are among the many veterans that are buried in this same cemetery.

Squire Hillman lived approximately eight years after the reburial of his father. He passed away October 31, 1876 and was buried beside his father. This is one of the few instances where father and son both served in early American wars and were buried side by side.

No action was taken for many years to obtain a monument or marker of any kind for the man who served in the War for Independence. In the year of 1948 the officials of the cemetery association decided to get a headstone from the Federal Government for Thomas Hillman. Federal regulations provide that headstones or markers may be furnished by the government for veterans of any American war (if his family has not purchased a monument previously) and it may be shipped at government expense to the railroad station nearest the cemetery where the veteran is buried.

The officials of the cemetery association encountered considerable difficulty in establishing proof that Hillman was a war veteran. Some one in former years had stated that his given name was Pate. As is stated above, this was the name of one of his sons. When a search was made through government records for Pate Hillman, they reported that no such person could be found in their records who had served in the Revolution.

A representative of this Bureau (who was doing veteran's service work at that time) was requested to assist in establishing proof that Hillman had served in the American armed forces during their first conflict with Great Britain. Letters of inquiry were sent to New Jersey authorities as well as to the authorities in

Virginia. Both of these states as well as the federal authorities reported back that they could not find a record of Pate Hillman in their records of Revolutionary War veterans. Every effort was exhausted that could be thought of to obtain proof of his being a veteran.

In 1952 or 1953, the Sons of the American Revolution (commonly known as the S/R) organization was asked to assist in the search to prove the eligibility of Hillman's getting a government headstone for his grave. After checking certain other records, the National Headquarters of the S/R learned that the actual name of our soldier was Thomas Hillman.

Because the cemetery association had been given an incorrect name, much time and effort had been wasted in trying to secure a suitable memorial to be erected at the grave of the only man buried at this place who assisted in the suppression of British tyranny. Records were found in the early months of 1953 that proved beyond all doubt that Thomas Hillman had served in America's struggle for independence. After this proof had been established, formal application was filed with the Quartermaster General's office in Washington, D. C. for a headstone to mark the grave of Thomas Hillman.

This memorial was lettered in Washington, D. C. and shipped to Dahlgren, Illinois, then transported to the cemetery and erected with appropriate ceremonies on May, 30, 1953. The marker of Thomas Hillman was the first marker furnished by the Government to a Revolutionary War soldier since 1839.

OSCAR BRAKE REPORTING

Frank Brake lived near historic Richardson Hill. It is not known where he was born.

Like many of his neighbors, he depended on his rifle to supply the family with meat. The area had a large supply of deer and wild turkey. When in need of turkey he would leave the house early in the morning while the turkeys were still roosting, and in a very short time he would have all the turkey that he could carry home.

He was considered a crack marksman. While hunting deer on one occasion, he saw a deer coming by the side of him, and he fired a flint lock rifle; then he discovered that when his deer fell he had shot two of them. They were looking for water and the ice had frozen over.

One of his hobbies was to play the "fiddle" during his leisure hours; he would always put his foot while playing.

SUGAR CAMP BAPTIST CHURCH

Two score and four years after the Prairie State had been admitted to the national union, and one decade and nine years prior to the firing on Fort Sumter, which was the initial action of the War Between the States, a group of people who were residing in a rural area located for the most part in the southeast portion of Jefferson County, Illinois, had decided that they were in need of a place in their community to worship their Creator in their own way. These people were pioneers who had descended from families who had largely come to Illinois from southern states. The closest places of worship at that time were probably at some of the villages that were a considerable distance from their homes. Lovilla was situated a number of miles away in the western part of Hamilton County and Spring Garden, an enterprising village several miles to the west, was too inconvenient for the residents of the Sugar Camp area to attend religious services regularly.

There was a church of the same faith and order that was situated in the northeast part of Franklin County. This church in the adjoining county was called Liberty Church and was organized the year before Sugar Camp Church came into being. While the members of the Liberty Church were believers of the same doctrine that the founders of Sugar Camp Church held to, it was several miles distant and it would be more convenient to have a place of worship in their own locality.

With the above thoughts in mind, a number of farm people who were residing in the lower part of Moons Prairie Township assembled together and on February 26, 1842, organized what they called at that time Sugar Camp Creek Church. This new religious organization was located on the "Old Goshen Road" that ran from St. Louis, Missouri, to Shawneetown, Illinois. The original location of the church was in the southeast part of Jefferson County, Illinois, a short distance from the Hamilton County line.

A number of well known families in that area were among the ones that are credited with taking the responsibility to organize

this new church of the Baptist faith. In this group there were such names as Wilbanks, Allen, Cates, Foster, Hood, Pharis, Williams, Vance and Hosea Vise of the Macedonie area.

Like many churches of various denominations of the earlier period, the record indicates that they maintained a rather rigid discipline in the procedure of worship and conduct of business meetings. In their church constitution they set forth some very strong regulations to be followed in their form of worship. It would indicate from the early history of their new church that the group as a whole tried to "practice what they preached." This philosophy of worship a century and more ago pretty much prevailed among many church groups.

The founders of Sugar Camp Church and their families lived in an area that contained countless acres of timber. Much of this had to be cleared before fields could be put into cultivation and new roads constructed. Like other communities, transportation was by horse drawn vehicles. At times when there was freezing and thawing the local travel had to be done on foot. There were many times when the members of the new church had to walk from their homes to their church to attend services.

In view of the many obstacles with which they were confronted, they continued their regular worship as they felt led to do. During winter seasons when they were afflicted with the common ailments as most families were, there being a scarcity of physicians and medical information, there were times that they found it difficult to survive. Death took its toll in the area. As "miracle" drugs and vaccines were unknown and medical science had not advanced to the place that it has since the turn of the century, the early settlers of this community were confronted with the battle of survival and as a result had to look for a suitable burial ground.

We have not found records that show the exact time when construction of the new church building was begun. It is believed that the first building was erected the year that the church was organized. Reports from various people state that the first building was constructed of logs. This only stands to reason because timber

of the hard wood varieties was plentiful in that ware when work on the new building began and sawed and planed lumber was expensive and not available in the immediate vicinity for the new building.

From interviews, we learn that the first building of this new church was located on the north side of the "Old Goshen Road." Shortly after construction of the log building it was decided that a burial ground was needed in the community. As was the custom during that era, they began burying their dead close by their new building.

As additional deaths occurred in the community, more grave lots were acquired from time to time. Years later, another section of the cemetery was cleared on the south side of the road, and it too began to be filled with those that sooner or later became occupants of the silent city of the dead. The appearance of the cemetery would look to the stranger that there were two such burial grounds located across the road from each other. For many years, Memorial Day services were held at this cemetery, as was the custom in many localities from one coast to the other.

We are also informed that some time prior to the year 1870 another church was organized at this place of the Primitive Baptist faith. It is said that their place of worship was located on the south side of the road. Presumably both churches erected their buildings in the cemetery.

In the year of 1870 when the church membership had grown considerably (due to the fact that new settlers had moved into the community and the early families now had grown children), it was found that a larger building was needed. After some discussion as to what kind and type of new building they would erect, Malias McPherson who was living about a mile northwest of the old church site offered to donate the land for a new building. This location was at the edge of "Moones Prairie" and was more suitable to the needs of the congregation than the one where the first building had been erected.

A number of donations from individuals, and from churches of different faiths, were offered, some of them being as high as

five hundred dollars. Therefore, it was decided to erect the second building of Sugar Camp Missionary Baptist Church at the place where it is located at the present time. One report is that part of the lumber that was used in construction of the new building was hauled by wagon from Ashley, Illinois. The second building of this church is a frame structure and at the time that this history is written is in its ninetieth year and still in good condition. It has, of course, undergone the process of remodeling two or possibly three times.

This place of worship can truly be called one of the landmarks of Jefferson County. Unlike some churches of various faiths that were organized and held worship services for a number of years and then died out, this church has continued steadfast through the years since its inception. The church holds a record of one hundred eighteen years of continuous worship.

Some older people of the church have stated that the Primitive Baptist people of the locality united with the Missionary Baptist people after the new building was erected, and both groups worshiped together for quite some time. The year of 1877 marked the beginning of Lowry Hill Primitive Baptist Church a few miles northeast of Sugar Camp, and as this was the closest church of that faith, the people of the latter faith removed their membership and joined Lowry Hill Church.

This Jefferson County landmark has witnessed many changes during its time. At the time of its origin it saw a rugged countryside with many acres of timber, numerous wild animals running to and fro, countless wagon trains travelling on the "Old Goshen Road" between St. Louis and Shawneetown. This place of worship also witnessed the great War Between the States and furnished a number of her young men to serve with the "Boys in Blue." Again, it saw men from its community join the armed forces during the Spanish American War. Following this conflict, this wonderful old church witnessed the turn of the century. Later, it gave some of its sons to serve in the conflict that was to "end all wars." However, within one generation, again this place of worship gave a number of her sons to serve in the Second World War.

Sugar Camp Church has seen the rapid transition of farming with a team of horses and clearing woodland to plow the virgin soil, to the coming of the machine age which increased immensely the volume and production of agricultural pursuits. In its 118 years of existence, it has also witnessed the change from kerosene lights to modern electric service. In general, this place of worship has seen the revolutionary change from the rugged life of its pioneer founders to the modern life of the people of the Twentieth Century whose way of life has been drastically improved.

Below we submit the first order of business of the founders of this church:

CONSTITUTION 1842

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
JEFFERSON COUNTY) Feb. 26th 1842 We the presbytery by request come forward and examined the standing of these Brethren that was desirous to come into a Constitution at Sugar Camp Creek Meetinghouse and found them orthodox and holding the necessary qualifications. We pronounce them a church of the United Baptists order to be called Sugar Camp Creek Church and give the right hand of Fellowship to the following members that was holding letters of dismission from the United Baptist Church of Jesus Christ. Abel Allen, Stephen Allen, Thomas Cates, Daniel Wilbanks, Robert Richardson, James Allen, James Wilbanks, Isaac Foster, Nancy Allen, Susannah Cates, Nancy Allen, Lucinda Allen, Malisa Allen, Fanny Allen, Mariah Allen, Manerva Allen, Tulana Hood and Sarah Jane Pharis.

Elders (G. M. Williams
(J. M. Vance
(Hosea Vise

Saturday Before the 4th Sunday in February 1842 the church met in order;

1st Church chose Brother Silas Williams moderator protem,
Brother Hosea Vise Clerk protem

2nd Chose Brother James Wilbanks to serve us as clerk

Hosea Vise Clerk protem

ARTICLES OF FAITH

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
JEFFERSON COUNTY) February 26th, 1842
We the United Baptist at Sugar Camp Creek Church in said County do hereby agree to and establish the

following Covenant or Constitution as articles of our faith

- 1st We believe in one only true and living God the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost and the Three are One.
- 2nd We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Written Word of God and the only rule of Christian faith and practice.
- 3rd We believe in the doctrine of Election By Grace through Sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the Truth.
- 4th We believe in mans incapability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in, by nature of his own free will and ability.
- 5th We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed Righteousness of Christ.
- 6th We believe that sinners are Called, Converted, Regenerated and Sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
- 7th We believe the Saints shall persevere in Grace and never fall finally away.
- 8th We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Christ and that True Believers in Christ are the Subjects and Baptism is Immersion.
- 9th We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a General Judgment.
- 10th We believe that the Punishment of the Wicked and the Joys of the Righteous will be eternal.
- 11th We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances only such as is regularly baptized, called and come under hands of a Gospel Presbytery.

HERBERT RISLEY REPORTING

David Risley was born in Ohio in February, 1832. He came to the Sugar Camp neighborhood about 1840.

David Risley was married to the former Mary Boster, and they were the parents of the following children: Sophia, who married Zarachia Sexton; Henry, who married Isabelle Sharp, Helen, who married Philip Boster; Charles, who married Emma Rueffer; Effie, who married Thomas Joplin; Dely, who married Thomas Huffstutler, and James, who never married.

It is not known whether or not Davis Risley was married at the time of the Civil War, but it is known that he served three years and nine months during this conflict with the rebel states.

He enrolled in the Army at the Wilbanks Stand and left from there. He was in Sherman's March to the Sea. Risley said that they did not carry enough rations with them, and they would stop at farm houses and kill chickens with their bayonets. They would take the chickens along and cook them whenever they stopped to camp at night. Part of his service was with a neighbor, Thomas Wilkey, a descendant of one of Jefferson County's oldest families. On one occasion he was with Wilkey when a lead ball grazed Wilkey. Risley was never furloughed during his entire Civil War career.

When he was discharged from service, Risley came home by way of Snowflake, a hamlet in the community where he lived. He arrived home about dusk, took his discharge money out of his trousers and hid it. Some one broke into his house during the night with the intention of stealing the discharge money. Risley was struck with a bullet but it did not go through his clothing. It made a bruise, however, that affected him the remainder of his life.

Mr. Risley was a farmer by occupation, and it is believed that he was one of the earlier members of the Sugar Camp Baptist Church. He settled in the neighborhood of the church and spent his allotted time in this world in its vicinity. He bought a portion of his farm from the Federal Government.

Mr. Risley lived until the year of 1924, dying at the age of ninety-two, and being buried at the Sugar Camp Cemetery. Five of his great grandchildren were killed in World War Two.

MATTHE IRVIN BEASLY and H. W. IRVIN REPORTING

John Martin was born in North Carolina in the year 1781. He served as a captain in the War of 1812.

When the war was over and it was time for discharge, he was given (in lieu of pay) a grant of land which at that time was in Indian Country. It consisted of approximately six square miles from Belle Rive and extending south. It was so lonely in

the new territory that he sent for relatives and friends to come to settle, promising them he would furnish the land.

He was the father of Thomas Martin who was the father of Louis and Martha Martin. Martha Martin married Willis Irvin, whose father was an early settler from New York State. Martha and Willis' home was part of the original land grant of John Martin. Three children were born to Martha and Willis Irvin: Emma Yates, Alva and Martin. All three of their children lived their full lives in this vicinity.

John Martin remained a farmer after moving into the Sugar Camp area, and was one of the early members of Sugar Camp Baptist Church.

MRS. P. A. SMITH REPORTING

Richard S. Compton was born in Tennessee on September 1, 1832.

It is uncertain when he moved to this area, but it is almost certain that it was before the Civil War, as it is known that he often expressed Northern sentiments in regard to that war, despite the fact that he had been born in Tennessee.

Mr. Compton was married to the former Julia Ann Davis. He settled in Jefferson County, Illinois, near the southeast corner of the county and remained there until his death on December 23, 1891. Many times when roads were impassable, as they often were, Mr. Compton would have to go to the store at the Wilbanks Stand on horseback or walk. It was several miles to the Wilbanks Stand and would take the greater part of the day to make the round trip.

Mr. Compton was a farmer by occupation, and was a faithful and active member of Sugar Camp Missionary Baptist Church, which he served as a deacon for many years.

Mrs. Smith remembers when she was a young girl at Mr. Compton's place (she was his oldest granddaughter), the family had some meat they had butchered which was being cured in the smoke house. The grandchildren were the only ones at home at the time, and Mrs. Smith noticed a lot of smoke coming from the smoke house. One of the wooden crosspieces that was holding the hams had broken and the meat had

fallen in the fire. The children went after their grandfather, and he came quickly; however, the fire had gotten beyond putting out and the family suffered the loss of both the meat and the building.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ABOUT PATRICK ROSS

Patrick Ross, according to the official minutes of the Sugar Camp Baptist Church, joined that church in October, 1843. He continued to hold his membership with this church until the time of his death.

The report on Page B-26 of this volume points out that Ross was home on furlough from the Union Army at the occasion of his being killed. Official records received after Page B-26 was printed prove that Patrick Ross was discharged one year, six months and seven days prior to his slaying.

The official report is as follows:

Patrick Ross joined the Union Army on October 19, 1861, for three years. His enrollment was in Jefferson County (presumably at Wilbanks Stand, though this is a matter of conjecture). He was enrolled by Benjamin F. Wood. He was mustered into service on December 30, 1861, at Camp Butlet, Illinois, by a Captain Watson. He was discharged at Cairo, Illinois, on September 1, 1862, with the rank of private. His age was thirty-seven at the time of entering service, and he was a native of Knox County, Tennessee. (Note that Ross and his slayer were both natives of Tennessee.)

Patrick Ross was married prior to the time that he enlisted in the Union Army. We are unable to learn his wife's maiden name and do not know her native state. She and Patrick Ross had two sons at the time of his death, but we do not know if he had any other children.

William Turner Barbee was the child who was sent to the Ross home to notify them that Patrick Ross had been killed. Young Barbee was ten years of age at the time.

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